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GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

Jonathan Swift



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GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

by JONATHAN SWIFT




ON MAY FOURTH, SIXTEEN NINETY-NINE, LEMUEL GULLIVER, A LONDON PHYSICIAN, BOARDED THE ANTELOPE AT BRISTOL, ENGLAND, TO TAKE UP HIS DUTIES, AS SHIP'S SURGEON.
Happy sailing, Gulliver!
Thank you! I look forward to great adventure!

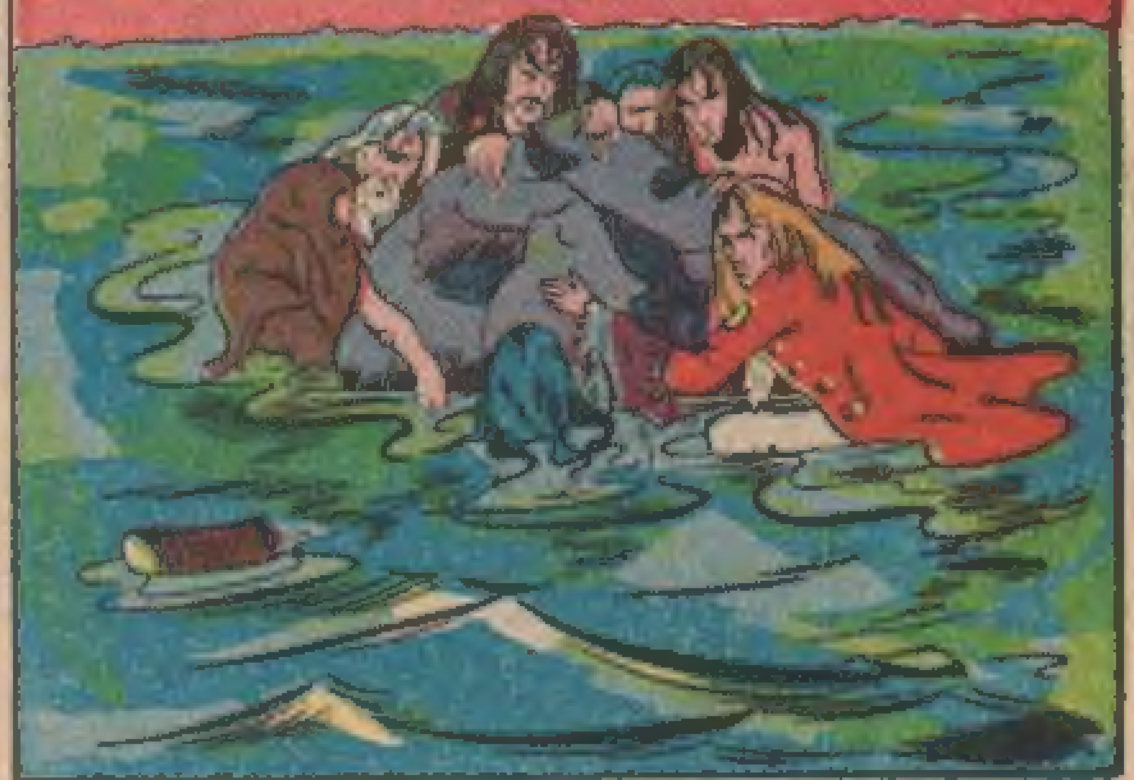

THE ANTELOPE HEADS FOR THE SOUTH SEAS. THE FIRST WEEKS PASS UNEVENTFULLY. . .
I should have remained in London, for all the excitement I am getting here.


SUDDENLY . . .
Squall coming this way!!


Reef in the sails!


THE STORM HITS THE SHIP! . .


IN THE BLACKNESS, THE ANTELOPE BLINDLY STRIKES A HIDDEN ROCK. . .


THE SHIP GOES DOWN, TAKING MOST OF THE CREW WITH HER..BUT A FEW SURVIVORS CLING DESPERATELY TO THE ROCK.

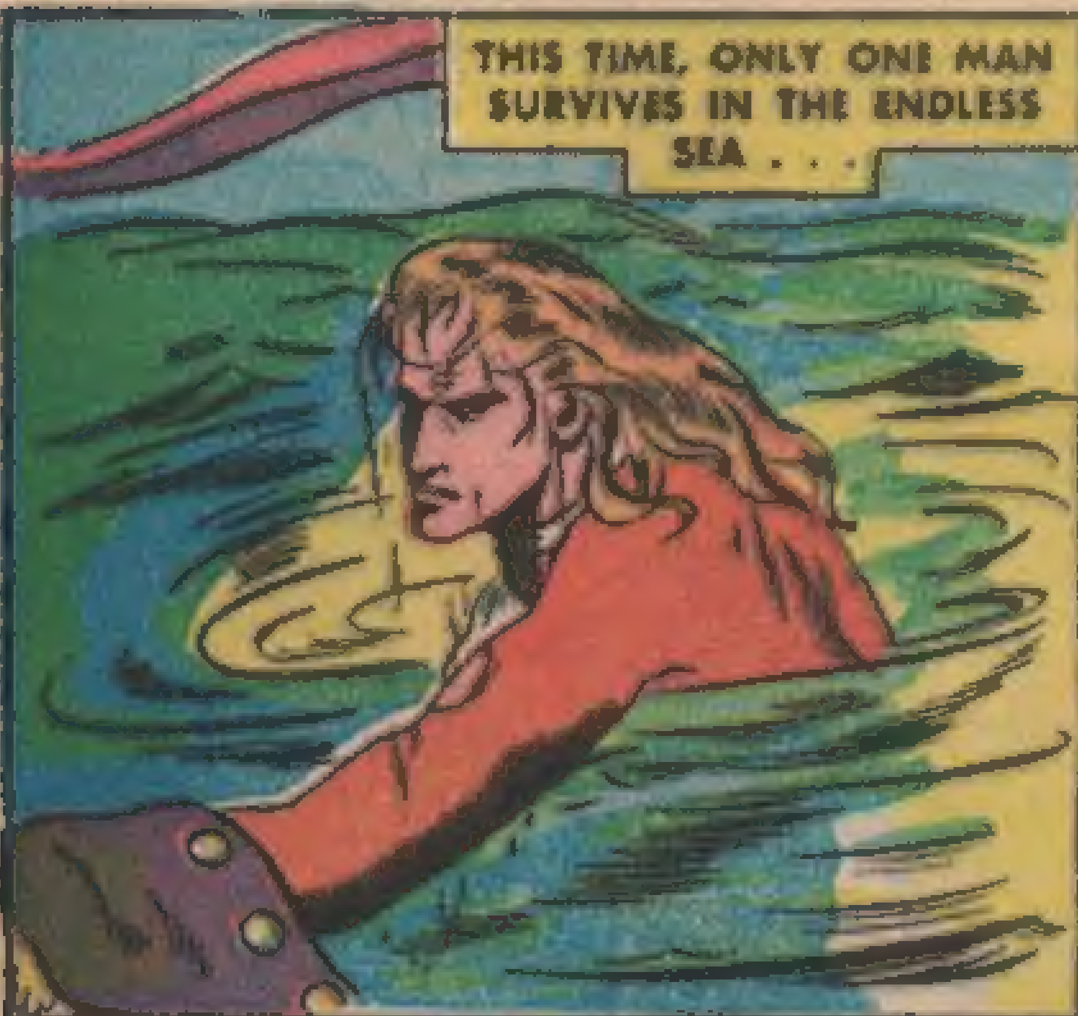

AS THE STORM SUBSIDES, ONE OF THE ANTELOPE'S LIFEBOATS DRIFTS BY. . .
I will get it!


AFTER REACHING THE BOAT, GULLIVER SWIMS BACK WITH IT, AND RESCUES THE SURVIVORS. . .
Not a sign of land! I wonder where we can be?
ANTELOPE

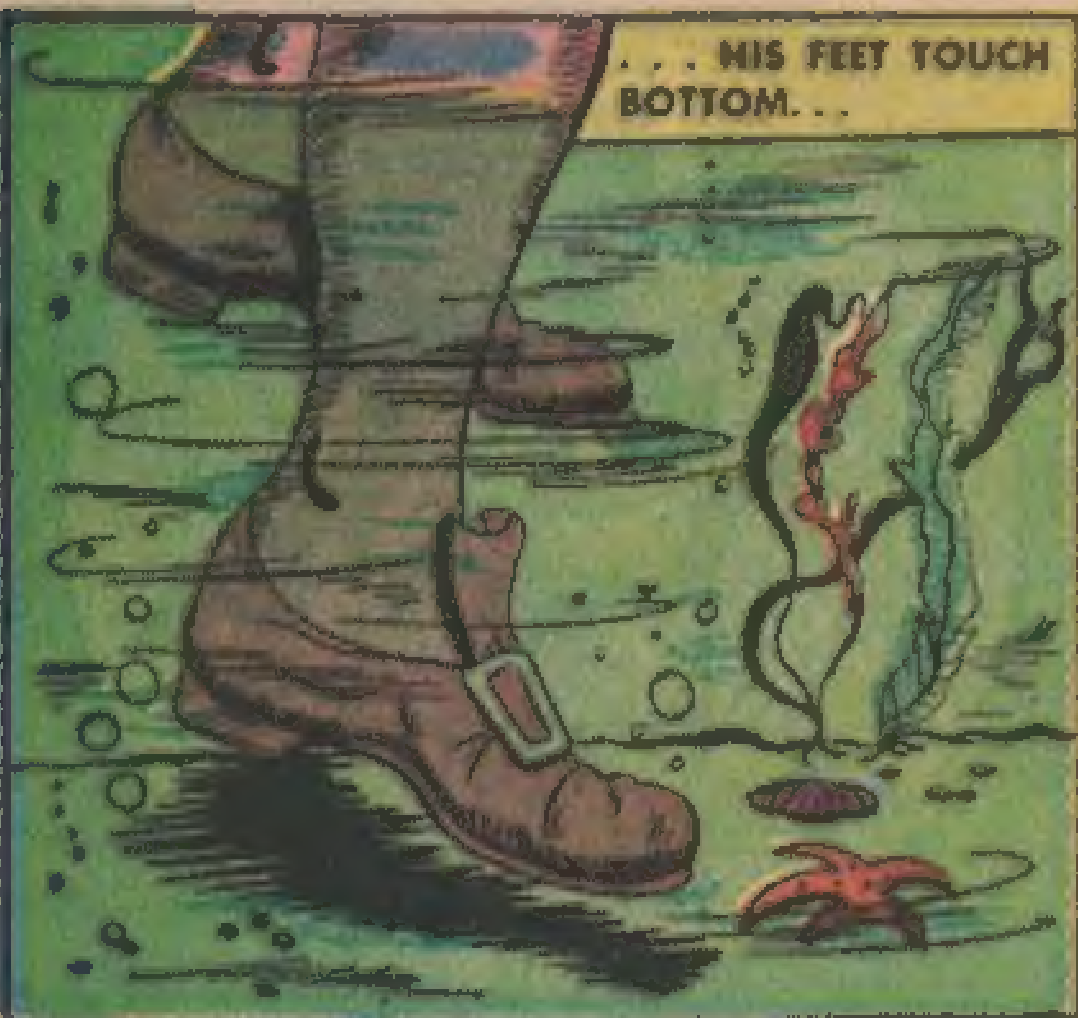

THE STORM HAS CARRIED THEM FAR OFF THEIR COURSE TO AN UNCHARTERED REGION NORTHWEST OF VAN DIMEN'S LAND.
SOUTH CHINA SEA
BANDA SEA
JAVA SEA
EAST INDIES
LILLIPUT
VANDIMENSLAND


AFTER DAYS OF DRIFTING . . .
We are heading into another storm!


A MOMENT LATER, A MOUNTAINOUS WAVE SWEEPS OVER THE SMALL CRAFT . . .


THIS TIME, ONLY ONE MAN SURVIVES IN THE ENDLESS SEA . . .


HIS BATTLE AGAINST THE WAVES WEAKENS HIM. HE CAN HARDLY GO ON. . .
THE STRUGGLE SEEMS HOPELESS. HE IS DROWNING, WHEN SUDDENLY . . .


. . . HIS FEET TOUCH BOTTOM. . .

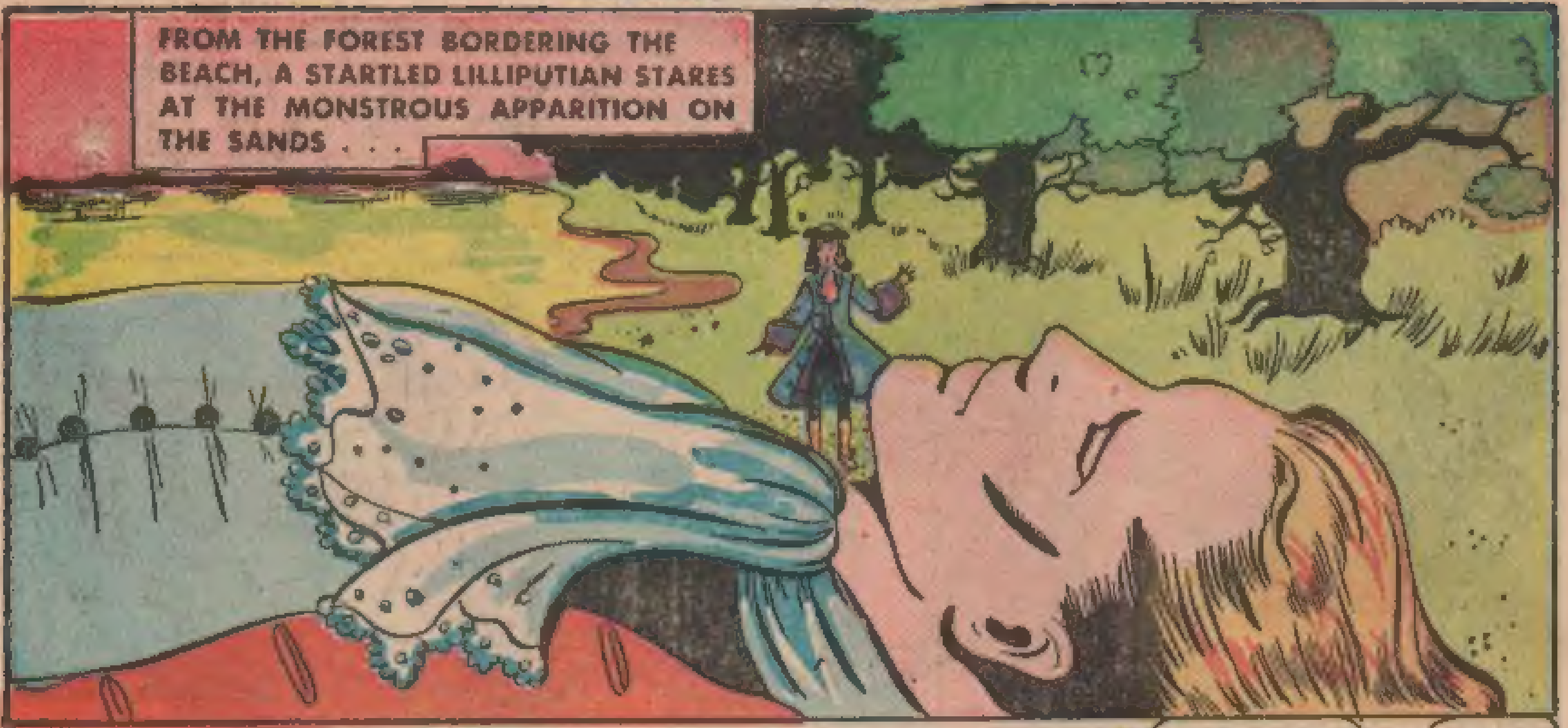

Can this be possible?




FAR OFF HE SEES A SHORELINE, TOWARDS WHICH HE WEARILY WADES.


COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED, HE STUMBLES ONTO THE BEACH . .


. . AND FALLS UNCONSCIOUS.
GULLIVER SLEEPS, UNAWARE THAT HE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN AN AMAZING ADVENTURE AMONG THE STRANGEST OF PEOPLE . . . THE TINY HUMAN BEINGS WHO INHABIT THE ISLAND OF LILLIPUT . . . CREATURES ONLY SIX INCHES HIGH!


FROM THE FOREST BORDERING THE BEACH, A STARTLED LILLIPUTIAN STARES AT THE MONSTROUS APPARITION ON THE SANDS . . .


. . . AND DASHES BACK TO TELL HIS FRIENDS.
There is a whale on the beach! Come, quick!


It does not look like a whale!
Let us go closer!
Then what can it be?
A FEW YARDS FROM GULLIVER, THEY STOP CAUTIOUSLY . . .


It must be a giant!
Look, it has arms!
And legs!


We must report this to the Emperor at once!
He will kill us when he awakens!


QUICKLY, ONE OF THE LITTLE MEN HURRIES TO THE CAPITAL...
A great giant is lying on the beach. You must send soldiers to subdue him!!
A giant? What nonsense is this?


BUT THE LILLIPUTIAN PERSISTS.
Go see what this man is talking about.


It surely is a giant! We must tie him-up before he awakens...

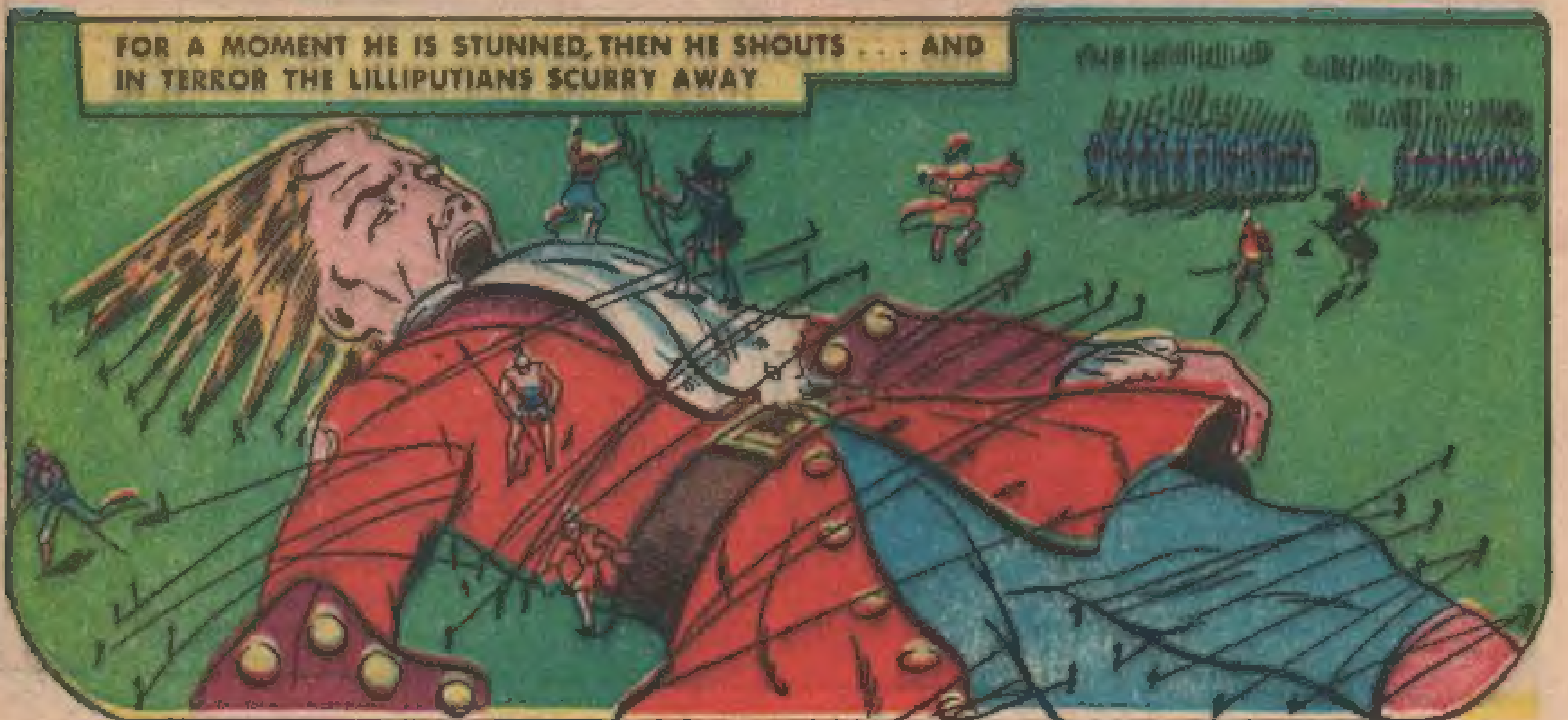

.THEN ROPES ARE TIED SECURELY TO THE PEGS.
ROPES AND STICKS ARE BROUGHT. .


IT TAKES HUNDREDS TO DO THE JOB. EVEN HIS HAIR IS FASTENED DOWN TIGHTLY

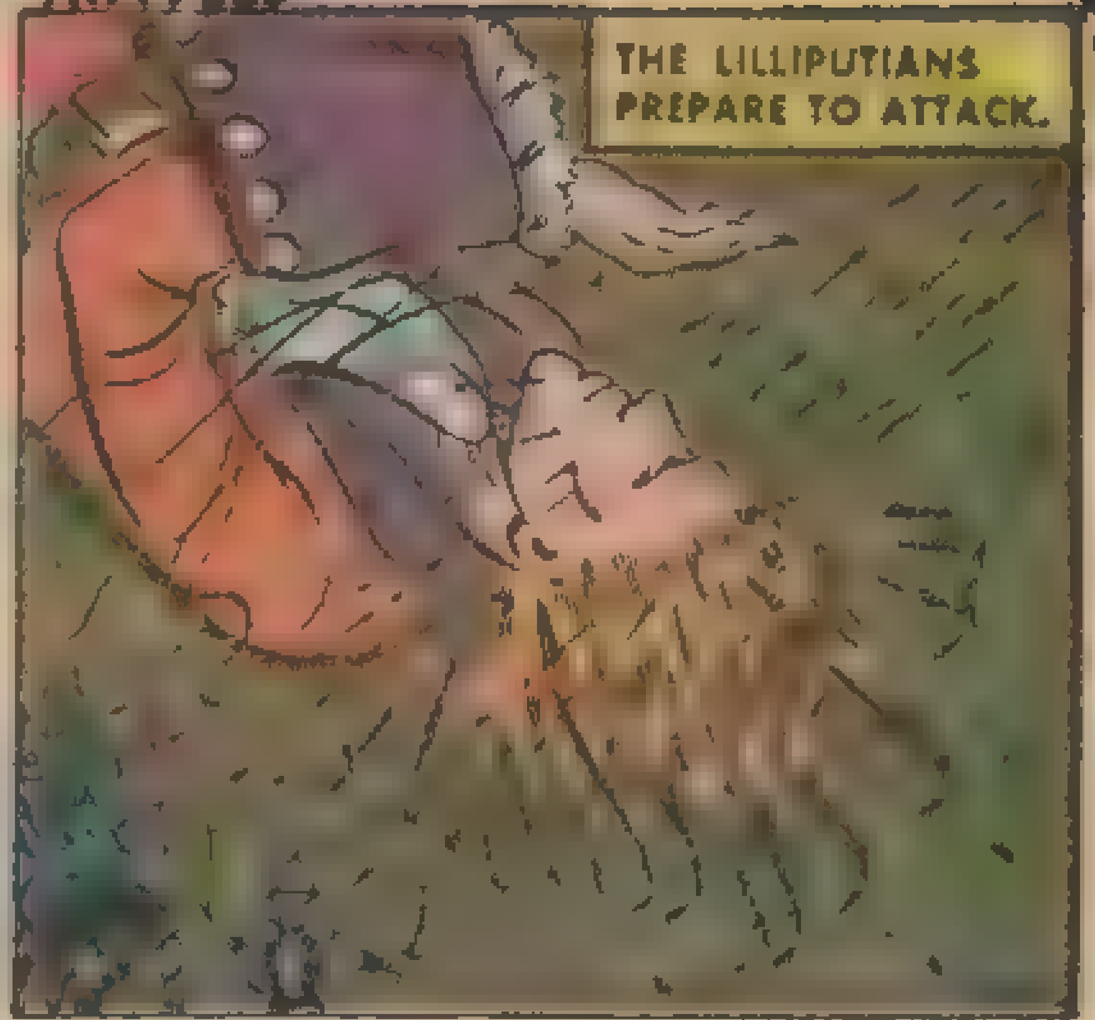

FEELING SAFER, THE LITTLE PEOPLE WAIT FOR THE GIANT TO AWAKE. . .


GULLIVER STIRS. . . SLOWLY HE OPENS HIS EYES AND TRIES TO GET UP. .
Tied down! How did this happen?


MEANWHILE, CURIOUS LILLIPUTIANS ARE RUNNING UP AND DOWN GULLIVER'S BODY. .


FOR A MOMENT HE IS STUNNED, THEN HE SHOUTS . . . AND IN TERROR THE LILLIPUTIANS SCURRY AWAY


THEIR FRIGHT GROWS AS GULLIVER, USING ALL HIS STRENGTH, FREES ONE ARM!


THE LILLIPUTIANS PREPARE TO ATTACK.

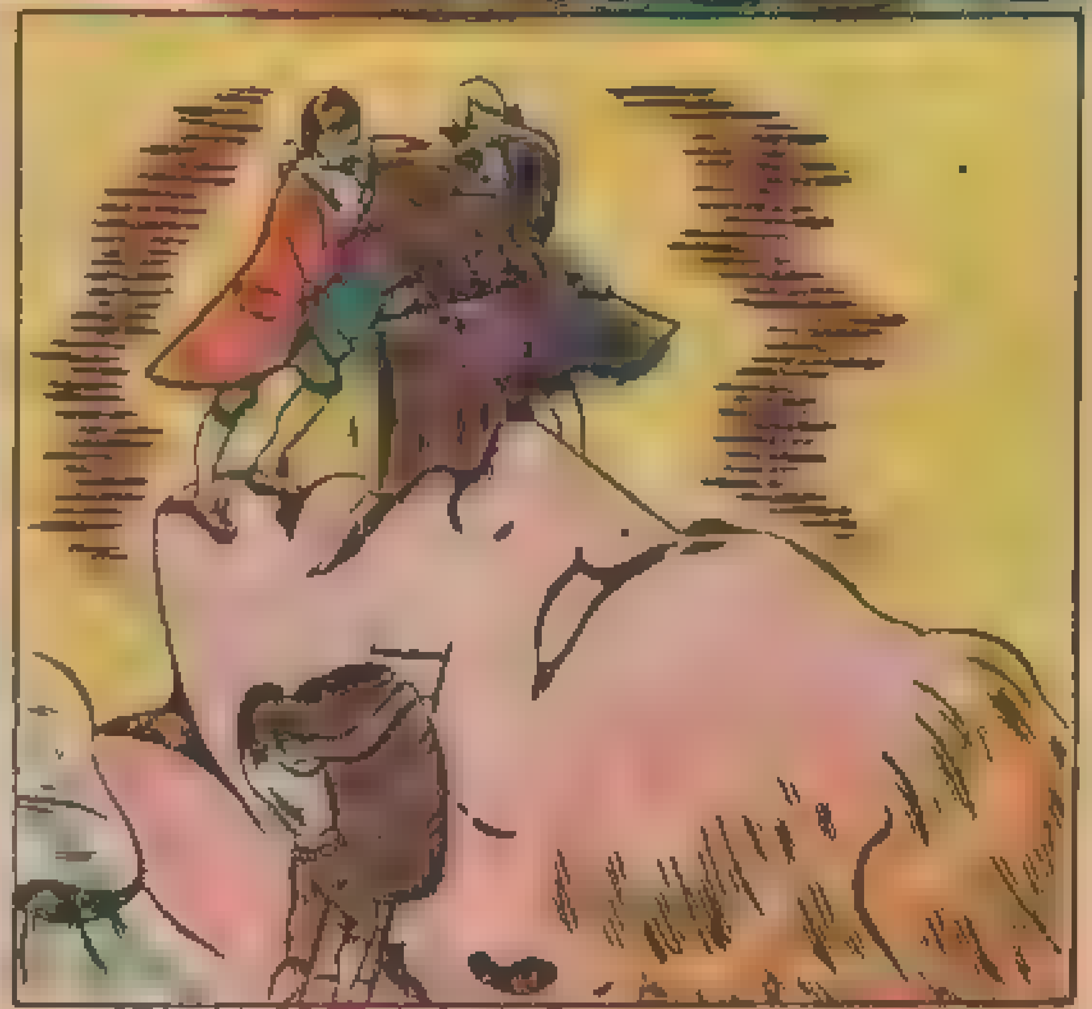

THE TINY ARROWS STING HIS FACE. HE DECIDES IT IS WISER TO LIE STILL.
Be ready to shoot if he moves again!


Look! He is saying something.
Perhaps he wishes to eat.


THE MINISTER ORDERS FOOD BROUGHT. BUT FEEDING GULLIVER IS A TREMENDOUS UNDERTAKING...

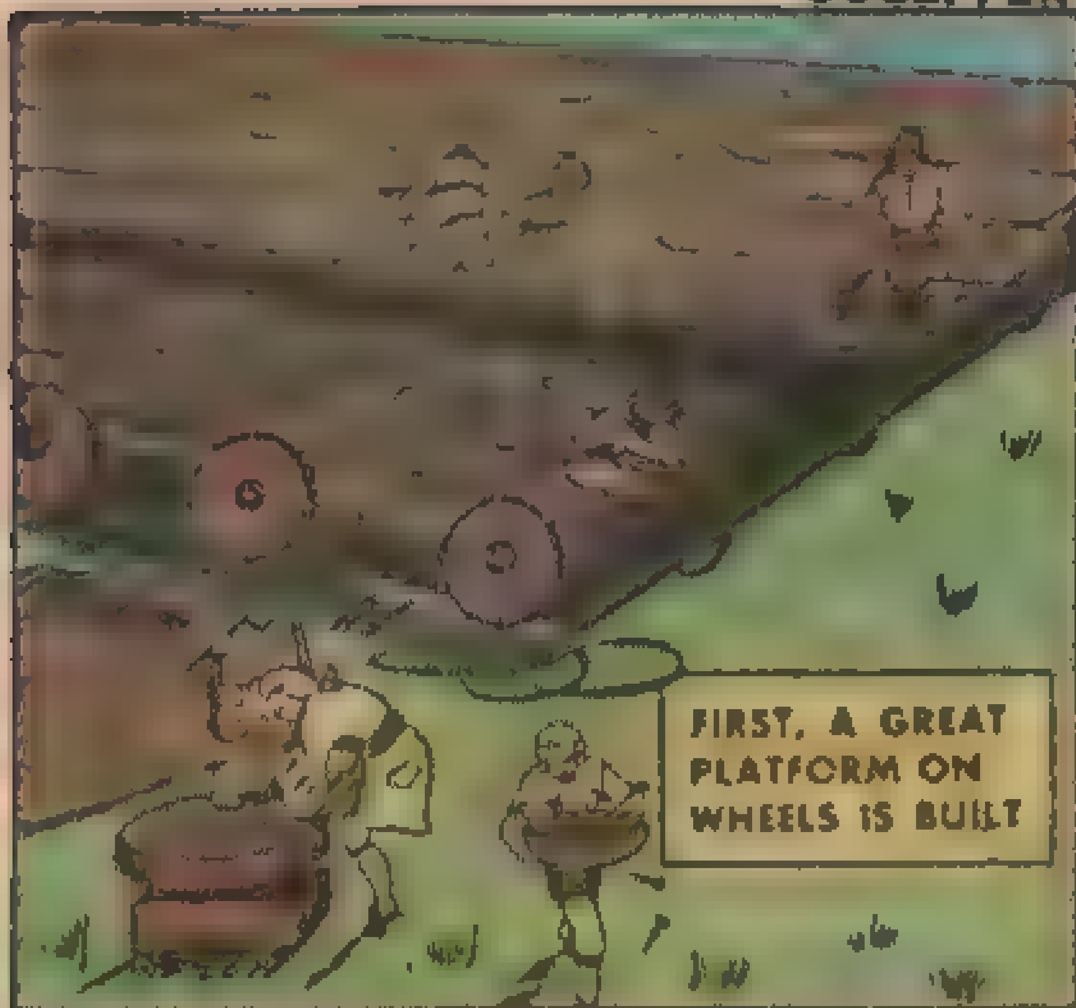






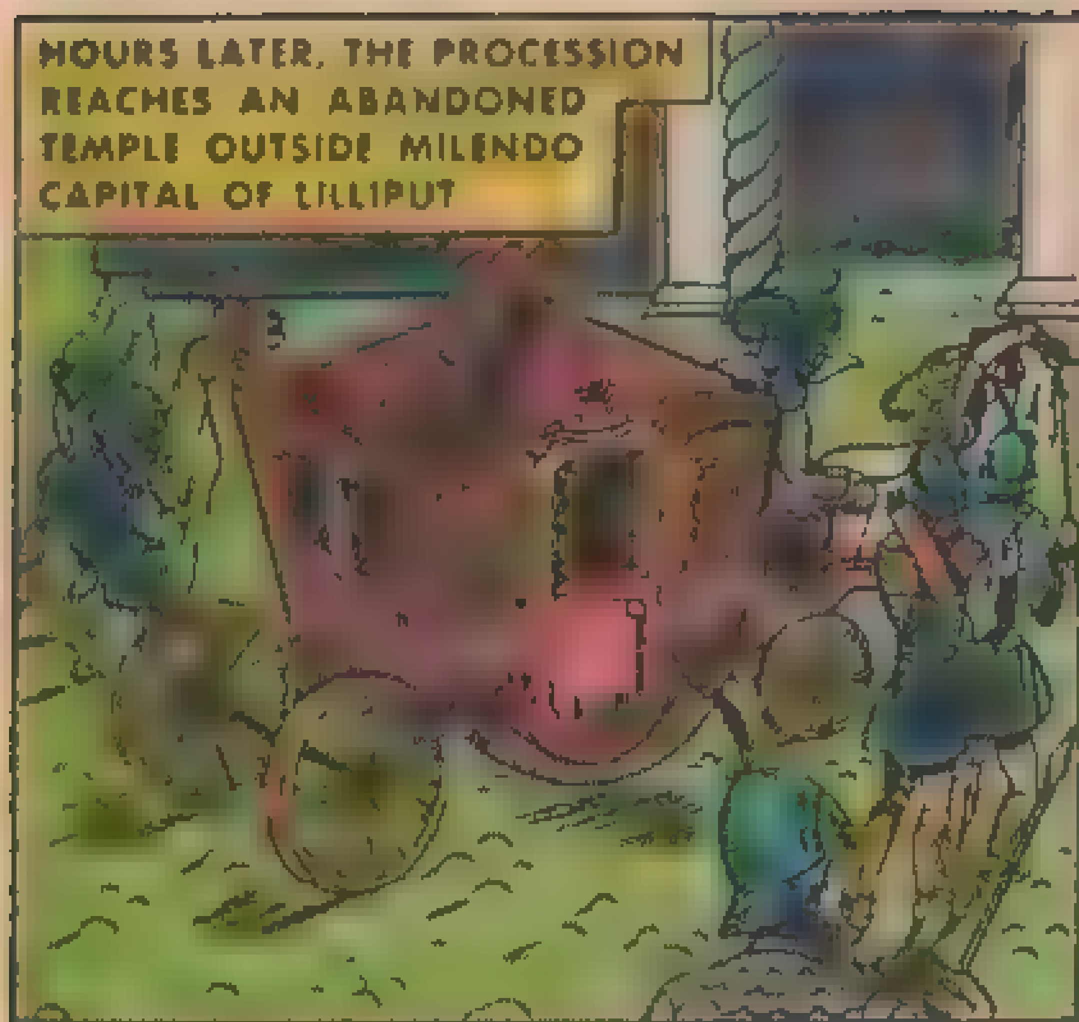


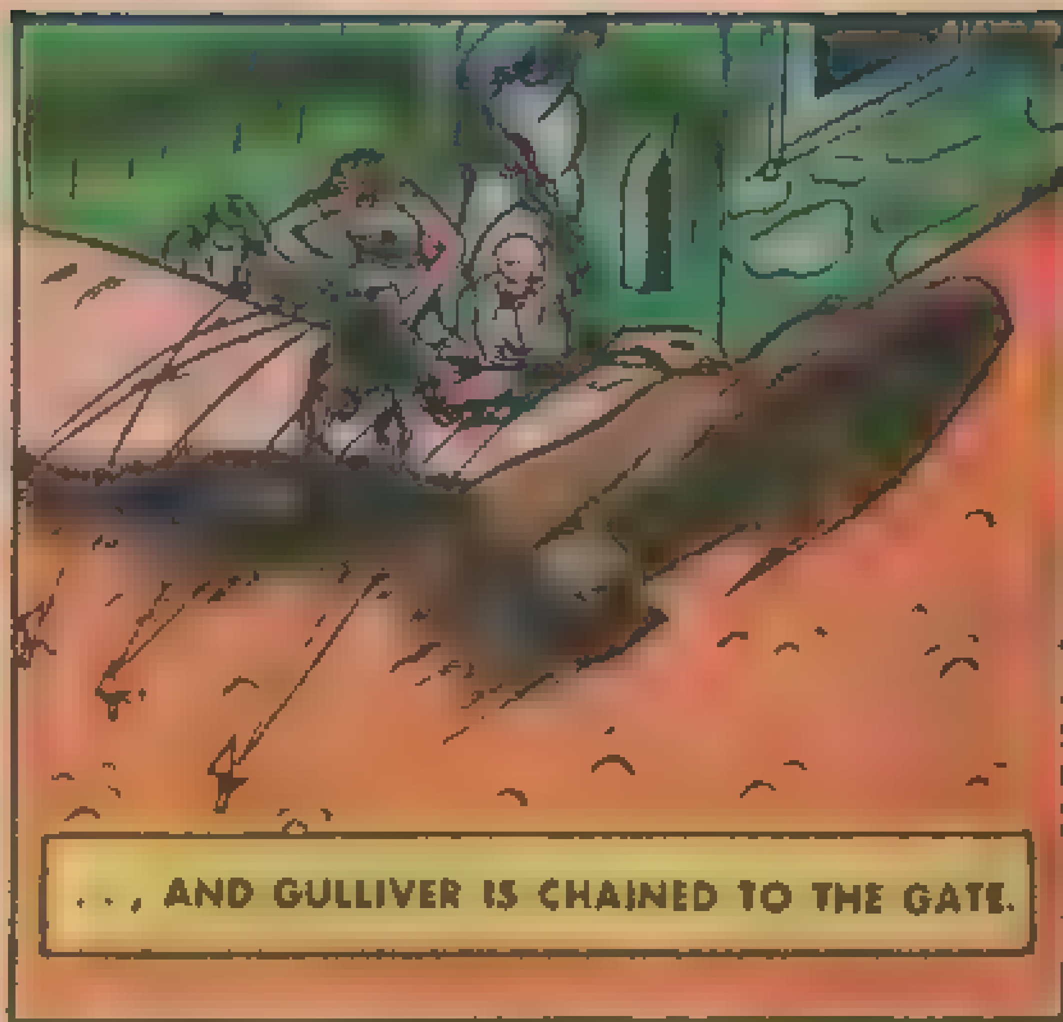
NOW, THE LILLIPUTIANS HAVE ANOTHER GIANT TASK TO TRANSPORT THEIR ENORMOUS VISITOR TO THE EMPEROR'S PALACE, HALF A MILE AWAY AFTER PUTTING HIM TO SLEEP BY DRUGGING HIS WINE, THOUSANDS OF WORKMEN GET BUSY





AND GULLIVER, PRISONER OF MEN NO LARGER THAN THE PALM OF HIS HAND, IS BROUGHT TO THE EMPEROR OF LILLIPUT WHO WILL DECIDE WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH THE MAN MOUNTAIN.







SUDDENLY THE CROWD OPENS A PATH AS A HERALD ANNOUNCES . .





THE EMPEROR ORDERS GULLIVER TO LIE DOWN SO HE CAN SEE HIM BETTER

This man will be valuable to us if he is as strong as he is large.

THE EMPEROR'S ADMIRATION FOR GULLIVER WORRIES ADMIRAL BOLGOLAM, WHO HAS GAINED ROYAL FAVOR FOR HIMSELF AND DREAMS OF WINNING GREATER POWER

I must not let this monster get in my way

THE EMPEROR ORDERS THAT GULLIVER BE WELL CARED FOR AND THEN DEPARTS WITH HIS COURT FIRST, GULLIVER GETS NEW CLOTHES

He is twelve times higher than any one of us

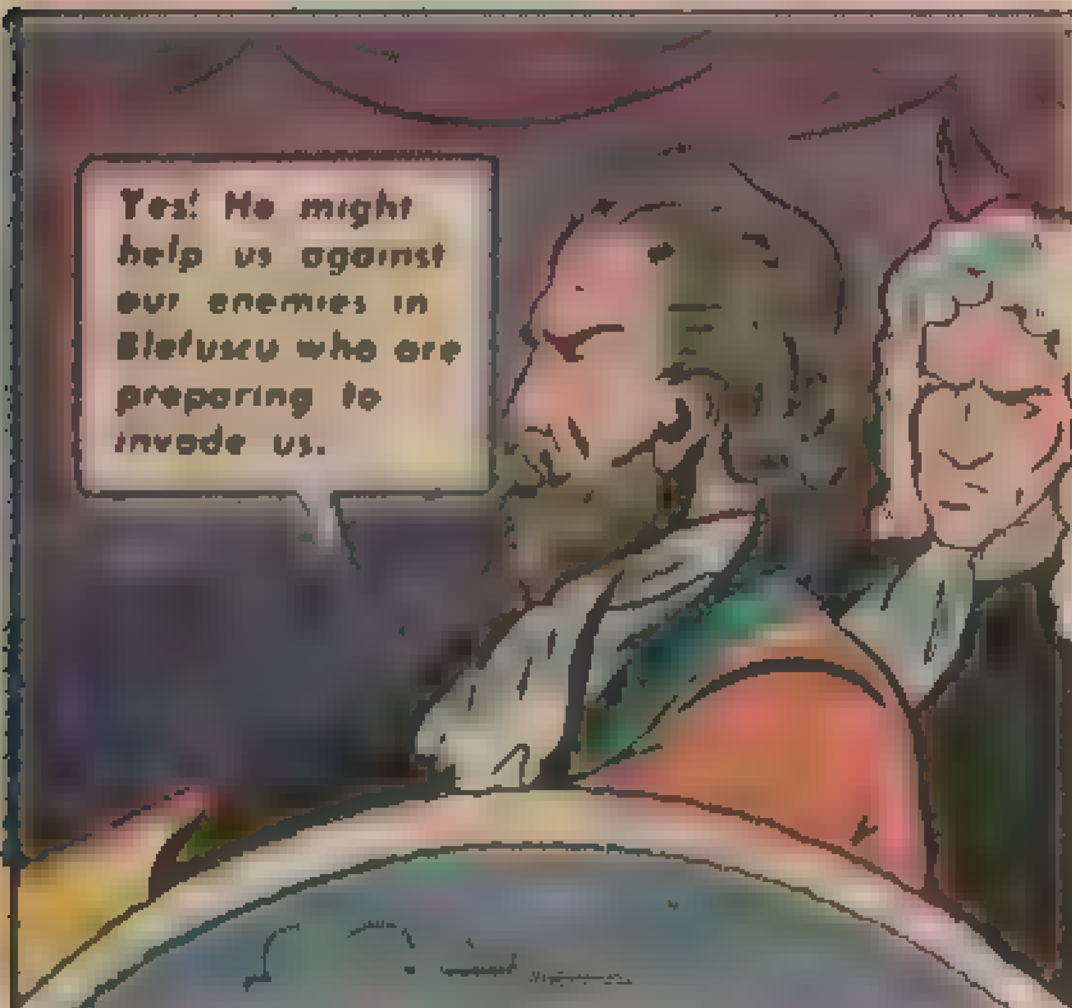
Is there enough cloth in Lilliput to clothe him?

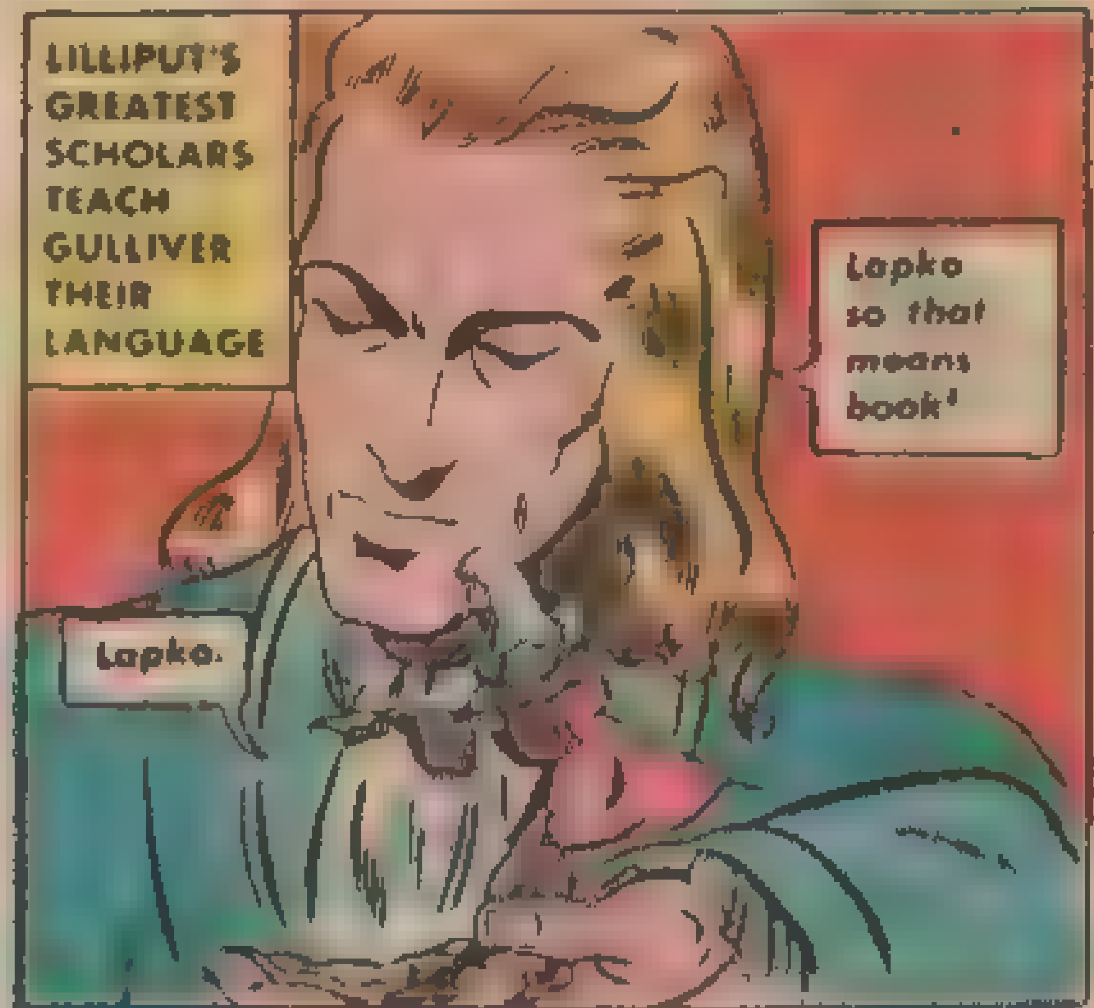
THOUSANDS OF PIECES OF CLOTH ARE SEWN TOGETHER TO MAKE GULLIVER'S COAT. . .

THEN A BED IS MADE FOR GULLIVER OUT OF SIX HUNDRED LILLIPUTIAN BEDS


MEANWHILE THE EMPEROR HAS BEEN HOLDING COUNCIL TO DISCUSS WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH GULLIVER
My advice is to destroy the monster before he breaks loose!

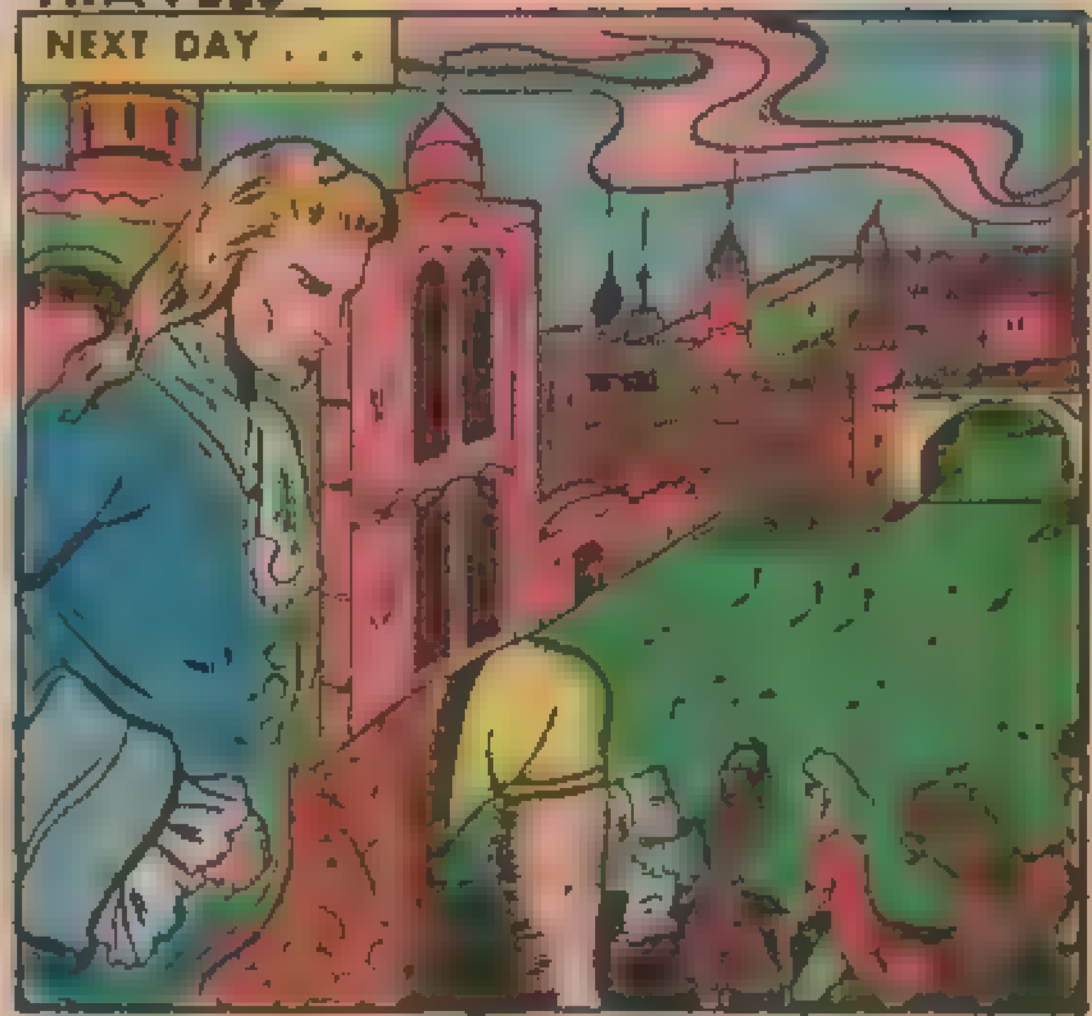

No, let us teach him our language and see if we can make a friend of him


Yes! He might help us against our enemies in Blefuscu who are preparing to invade us.

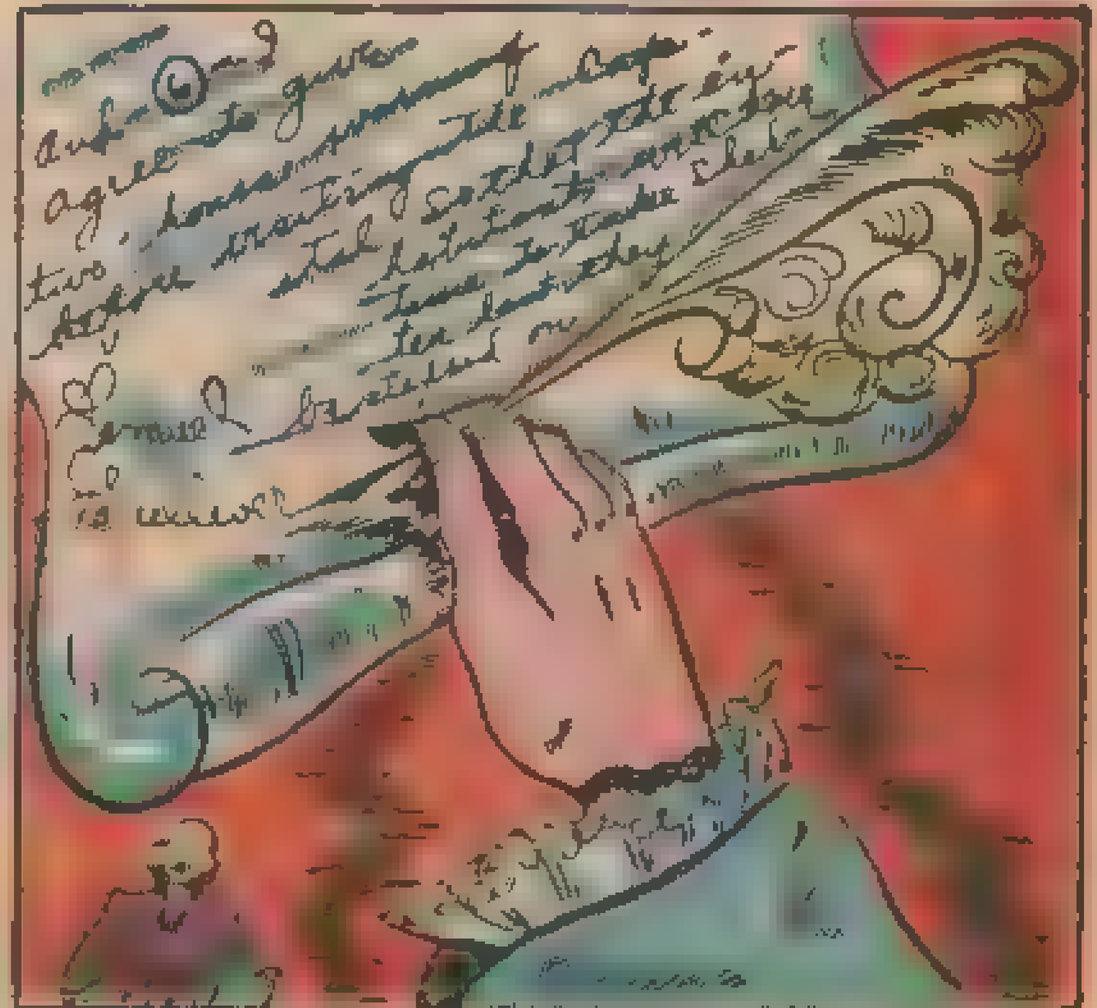

LILLIPUT'S GREATEST SCHOLARS TEACH GULLIVER THEIR LANGUAGE
Lapko.
Lapko so that means book!

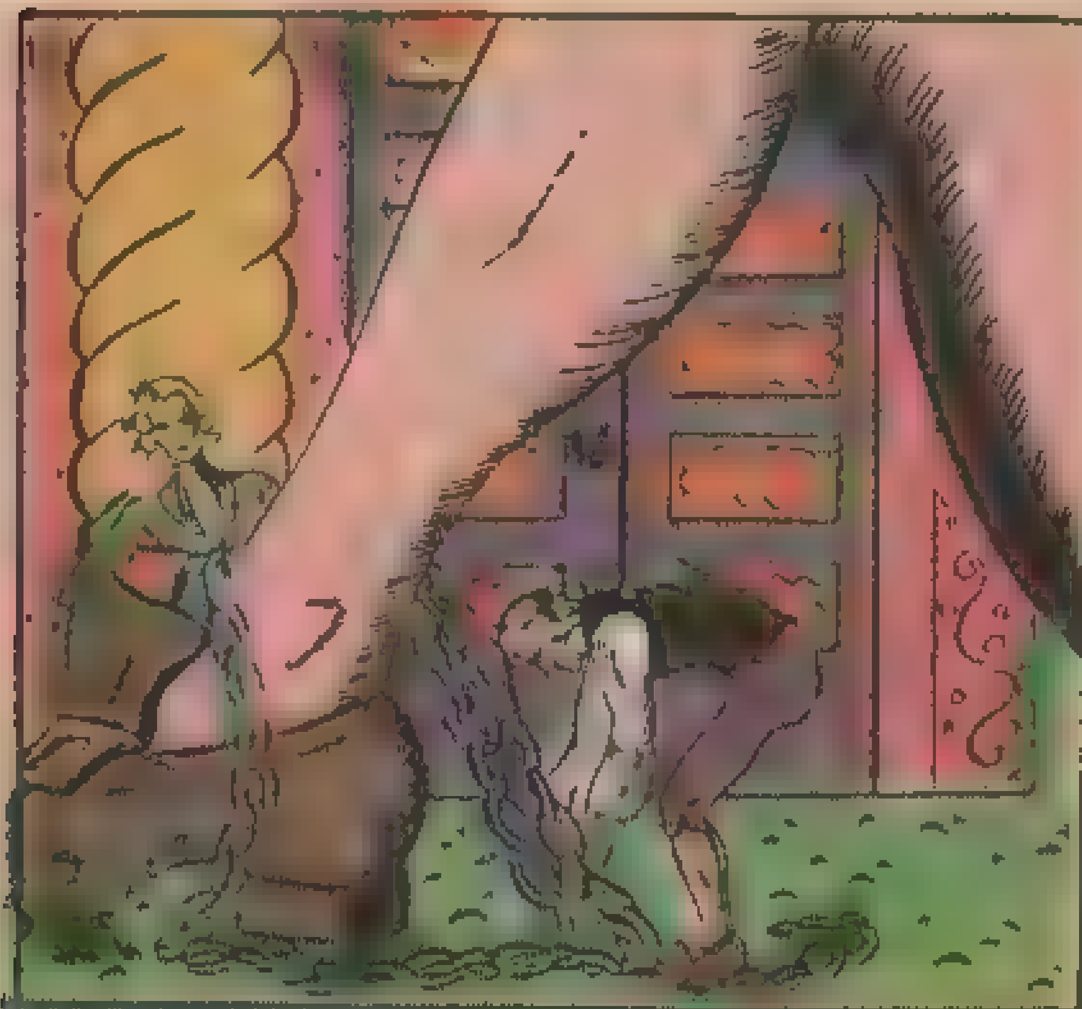

AS SOON AS GULLIVER HAS MASTERED THE STRANGE
THE EMPEROR PAYS HIM ANOTHER VISIT
Your majesty when will I be freed?
I am holding a cabinet meeting today You will know tomorrow


Let us set him free.
But only under certain conditions!

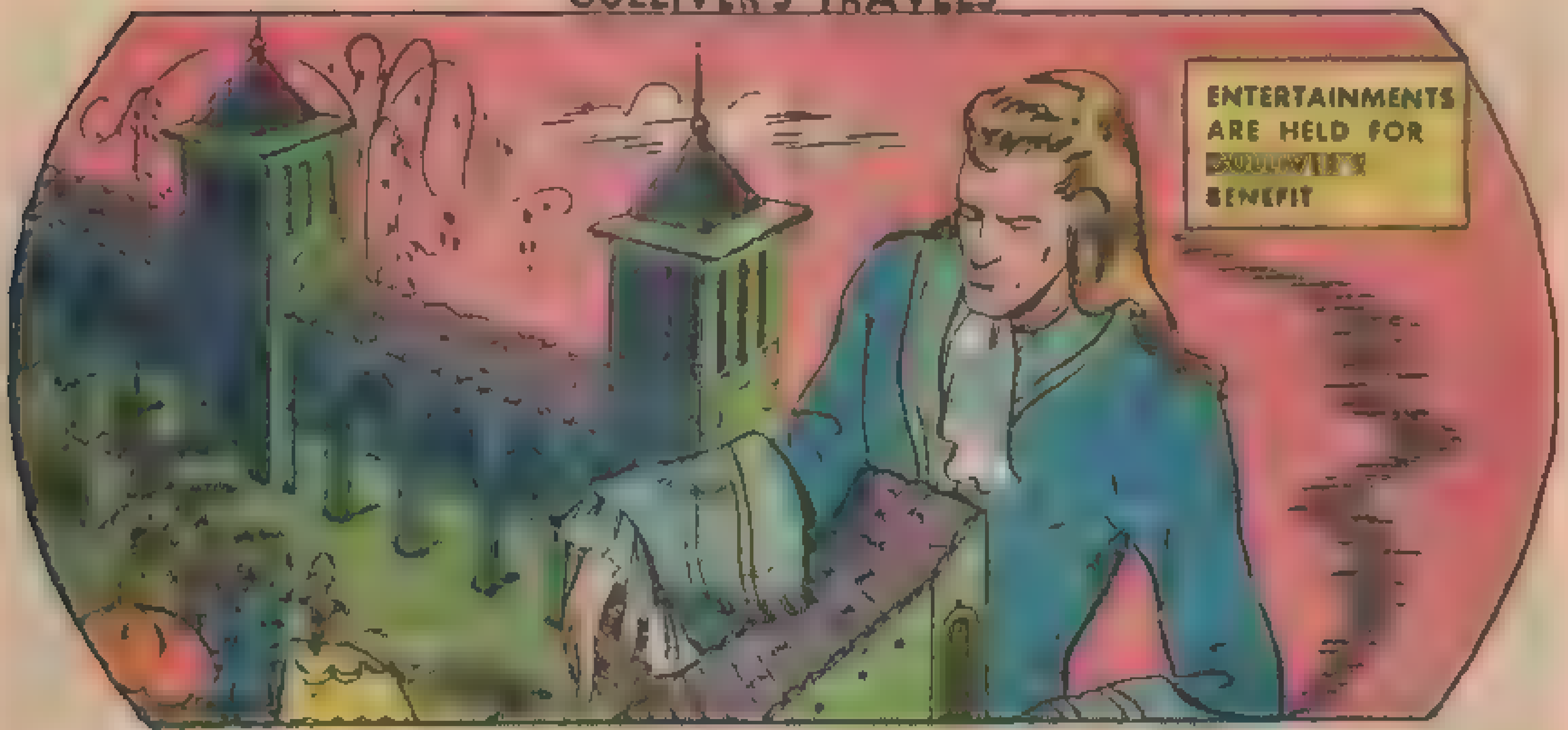

NEXT DAY . . .


By order of the Emperor, you may go free if you will assent to these conditions. . . .





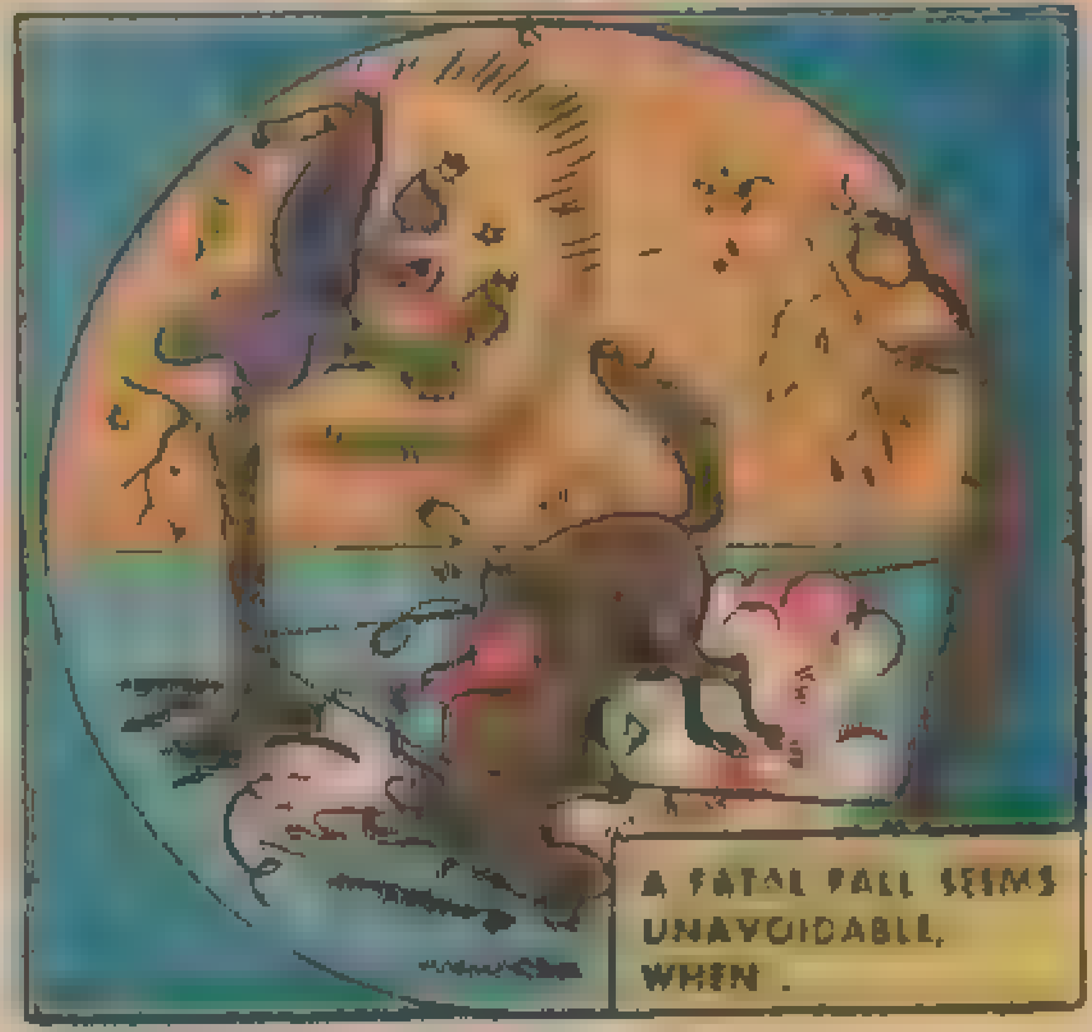

GULLIVER IS NOW FREE TO TRAVEL ABOUT THIS DOMINION. HIS FIRST VISIT IS TO THE EMPEROR'S PALACE.

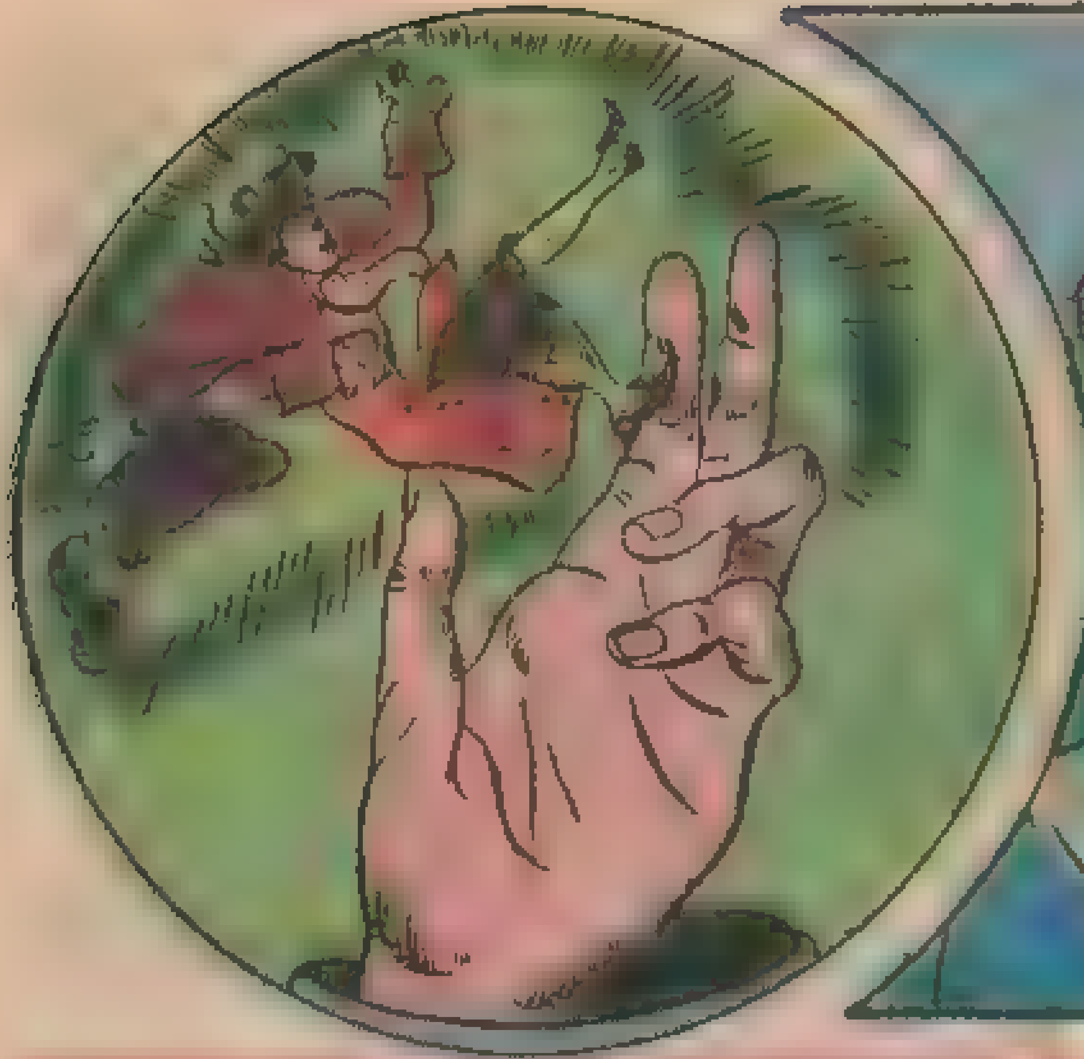

ENTERTAINMENTS ARE HELD FOR GULLIVER'S BENEFIT

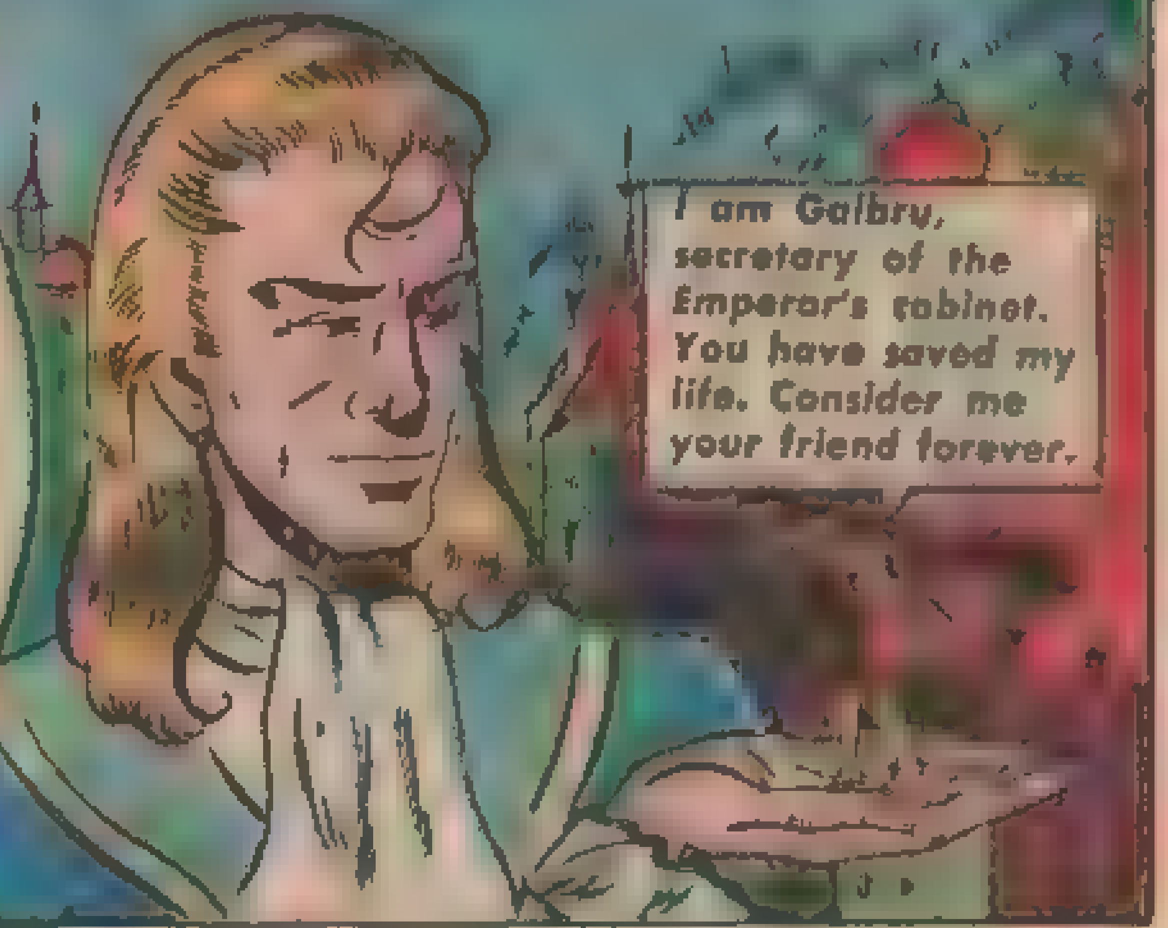

GULLIVER SUGGESTS A TOURNAMENT AND PREPARES A SHAM BATTLE GROUND

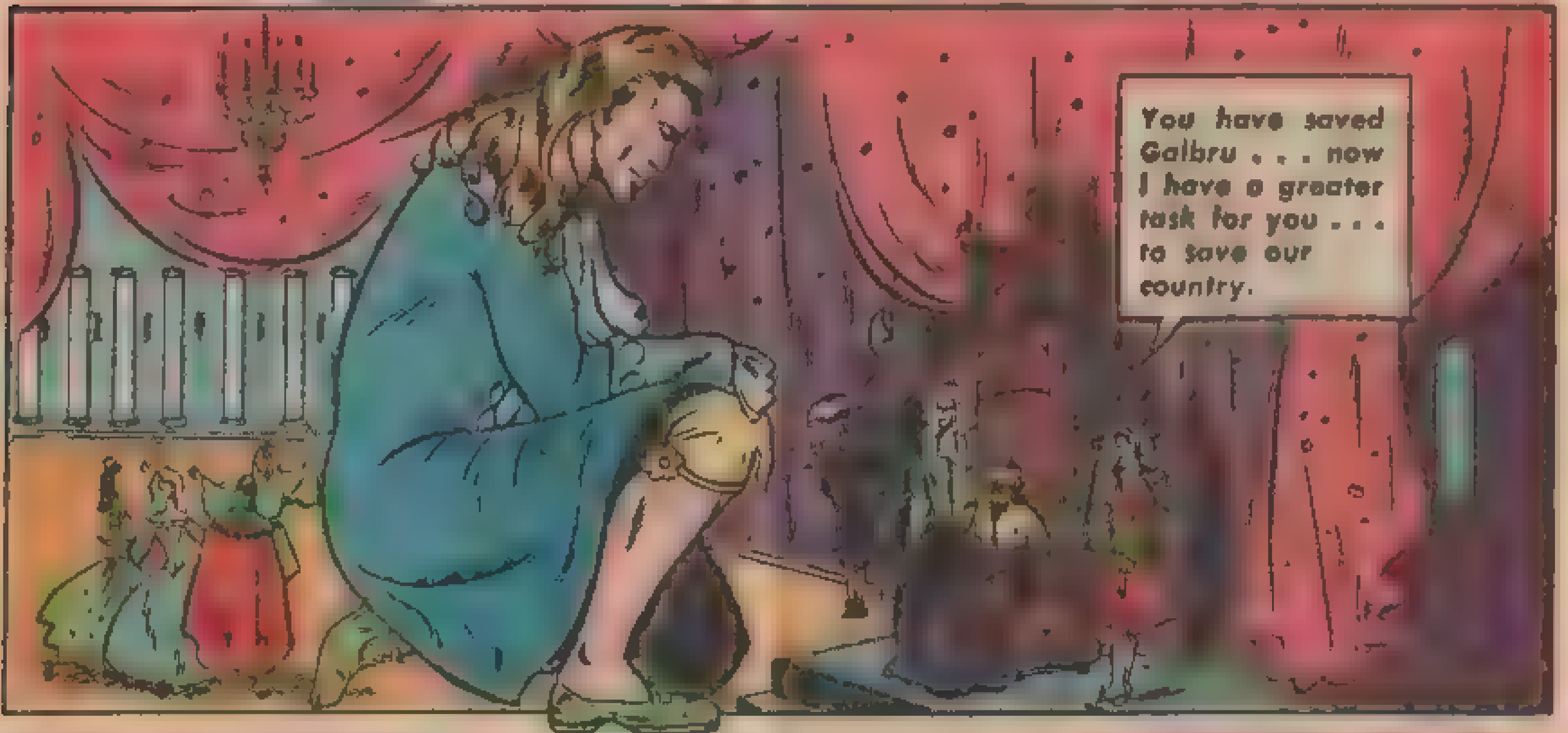


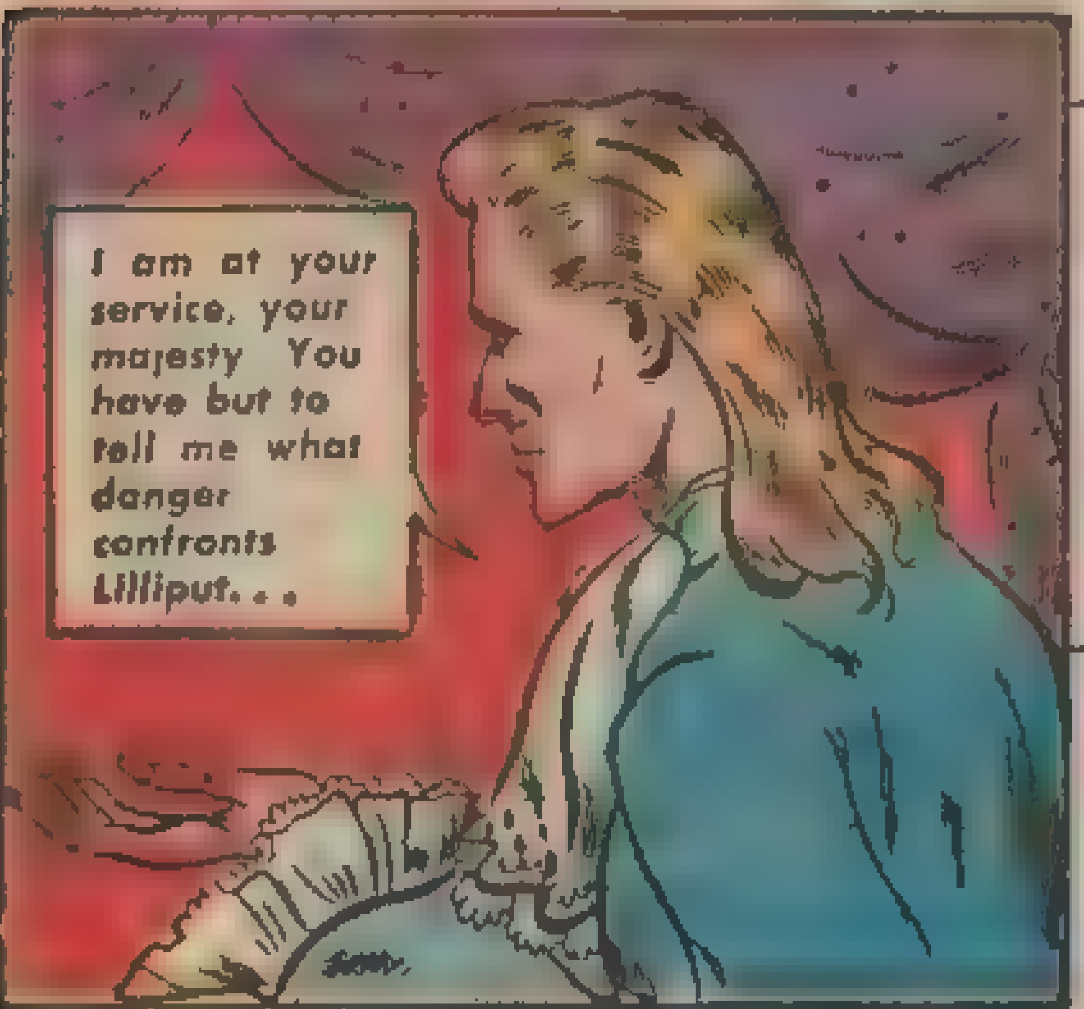

AT ONE END OF THE TOURNEY GROUND, A HORSE RUNS WILD
Stop! Stop!

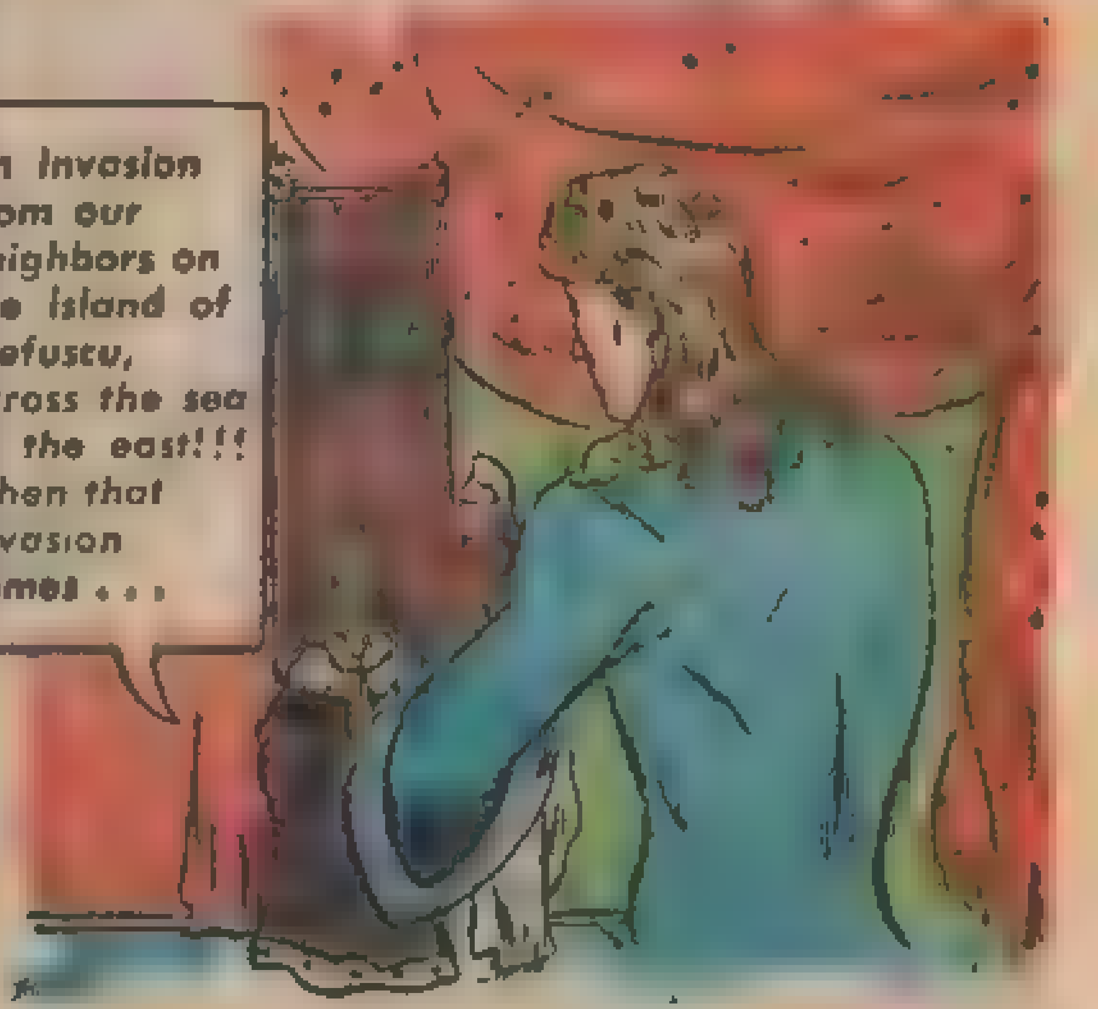

A FATAL FALL SEEMS UNAVOIDABLE, WHEN .




I am Galbru, secretary of the Emperor's cabinet. You have saved my life. Consider me your friend forever.


You have saved Galbru . . . now I have a greater task for you . . . to save our country.


I am at your service, your majesty You have but to tell me what danger confronts Lilliput. . .

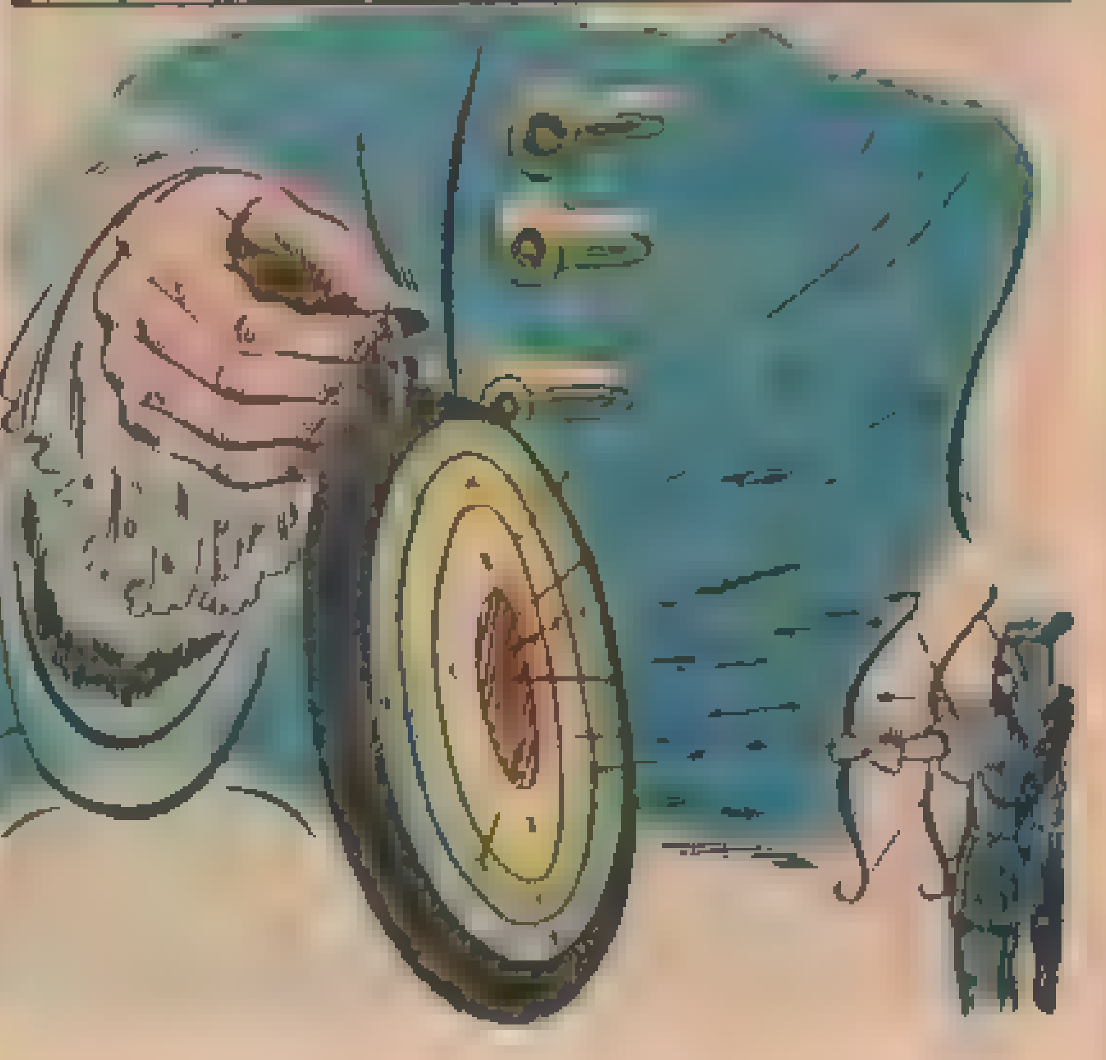

An invasion from our neighbors on the Island of Blefuscu, across the sea to the east!!! When that invasion comes . . .


you will be commander in chief of our forces


These are some of the troops you will lead


GULLIVER DRILLS THE SOLDIERS





ONE HIGH OFFICIAL WATCHES GULLIVER'S ADVANCE IN ROYAL FAVOR WITH GREAT DISPLEASURE.

This Gulliver is becoming too powerful. I must stop him.

THE ADMIRAL CONCEIVES A PLOT

We must destroy Gulliver. The only way to do so is to make the Emperor believe he is an enemy of Lilliput. Here is my plan.

We will get him to break one of the pledges he made when he was freed. Tomorrow morning, go to his house, dressed as a Herald of the Emperor and tell him the Emperor wishes to see him at once.

A clever trick! If he obeys, he will be violating his pledge to give two hours' notice before visiting the Capital.

The Blefuscuans must be attacking.

I'll go at once.

The Emperor desires that you appear before him at once. A great emergency has arisen.

AS GULLIVER APPROACHES THE CITY

But he didn't give two hours' notice.. I'll warn the palace

Look! The man mountain is coming

We had better call the army to stop him

What can he be up to?

SOLDIERS WITH POISONED ARROWS SURROUND GULLIVER AT THE CITY GATES

But the Emperor wishes to see me.

WITHOUT A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN, GULLIVER IS PUT ON TRIAL BEFORE THE EMPEROR

But the Emperor sent a message to bring me here

You deliberately violated your pledge and were seeking to destroy the Capital





GULLIVER IS HELPLESS TO DEFEND HIMSELF, FOR ONE FALSE MOVE FROM HIM WOULD BRING A STORM OF POISONED ARROWS. HIS FATE SEEMS SEALED

Ready . .
Aim . !

BUT BEFORE THE ORDER TO FIRE CAN BE GIVEN . .

Your majesty! The Blefuscuan fleet has been sighted! It is on its way to our shore

Call out the army!

IN THE EXCITEMENT GULLIVER IS FORGOTTEN. HE ESCAPES

BEFORE THE LILLIPUTIAN TROOPS CAN MOBILIZE, THE BLEFUSCU FLEET HAS LANDED AN ATTACKING ARMY.

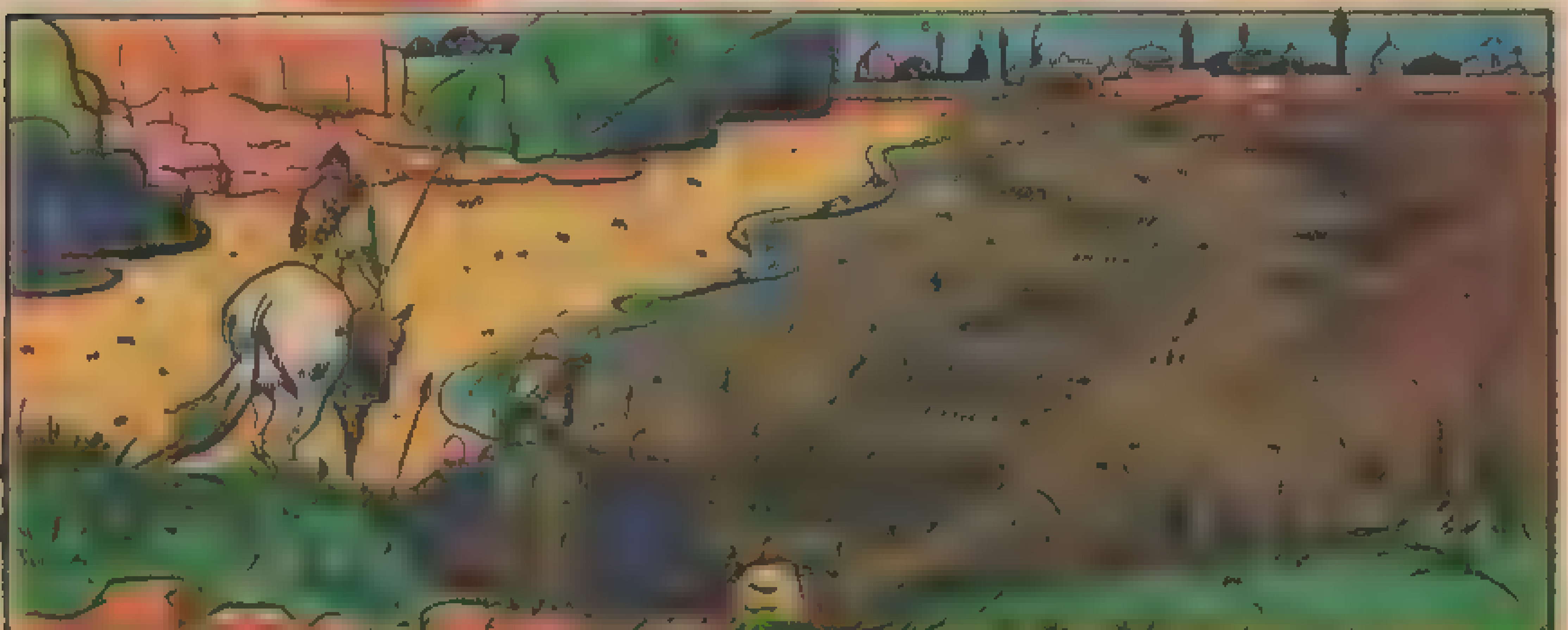
INLAND, THE LILLIPUTIAN ARMY HAS FORMED AND IS MOVING TO MEET THE INVADERS

We'll hold them on this hill!



We can't hold out much longer

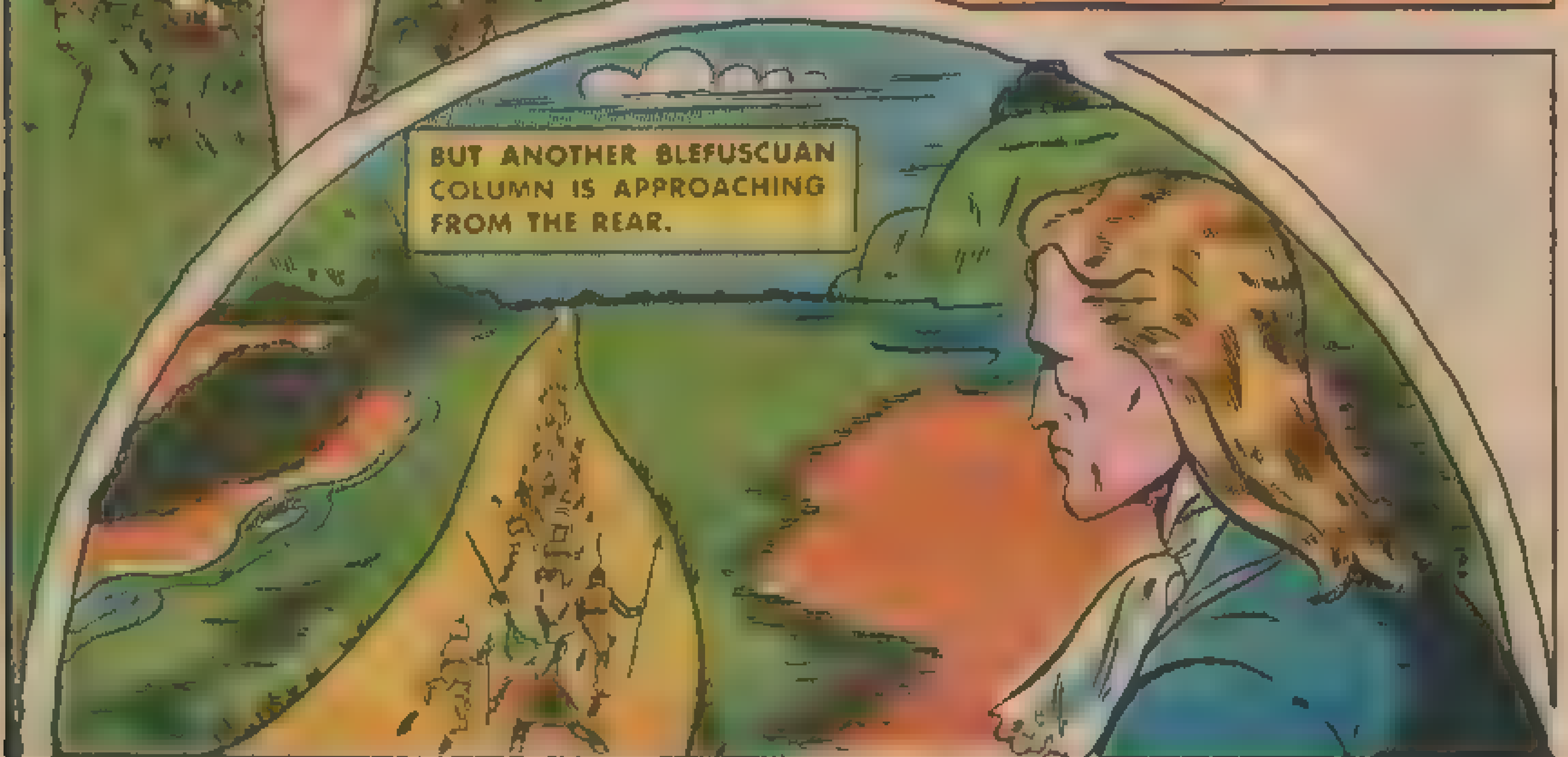


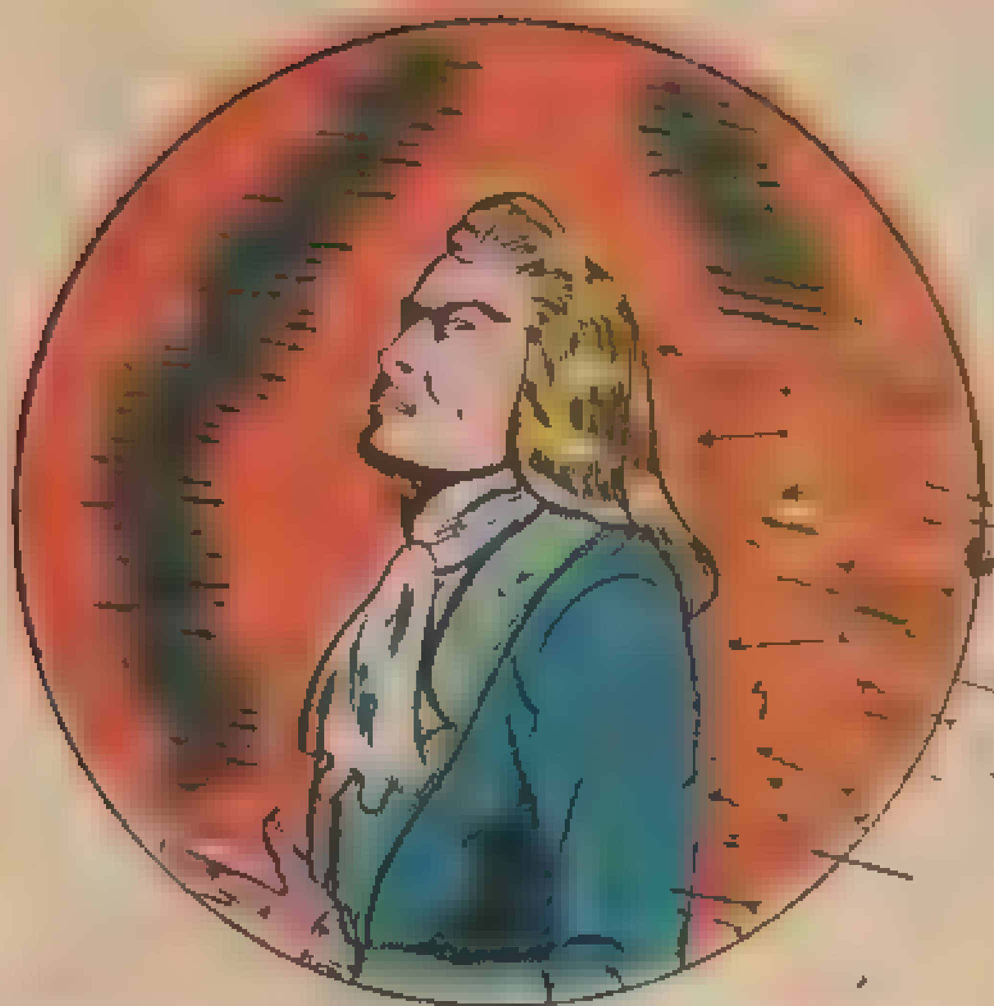



SUDDENLY THE BLEFUSCUANS ARE BROUGHT TO AN ABRUPT HALT.

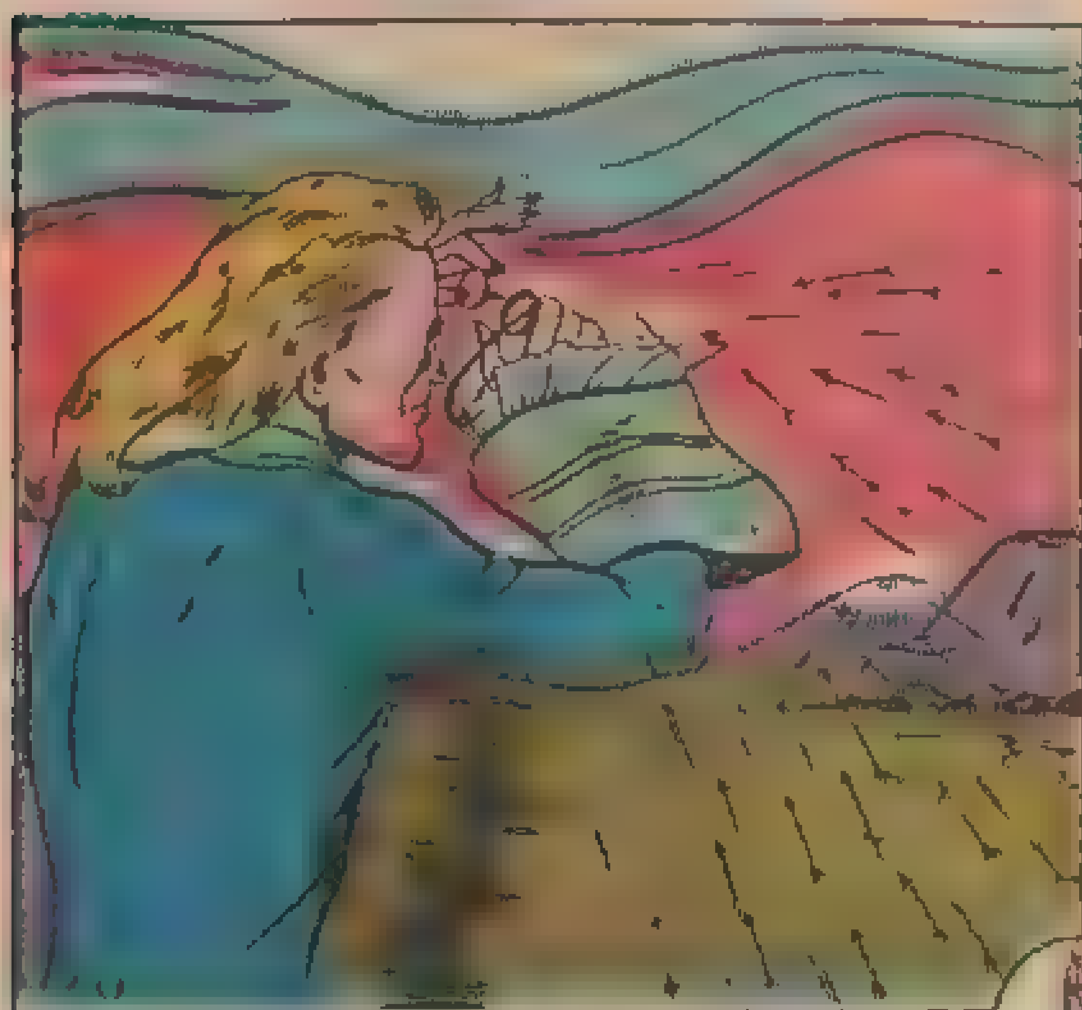





BUT ANOTHER BLEFUSCUAN COLUMN IS APPROACHING FROM THE REAR.

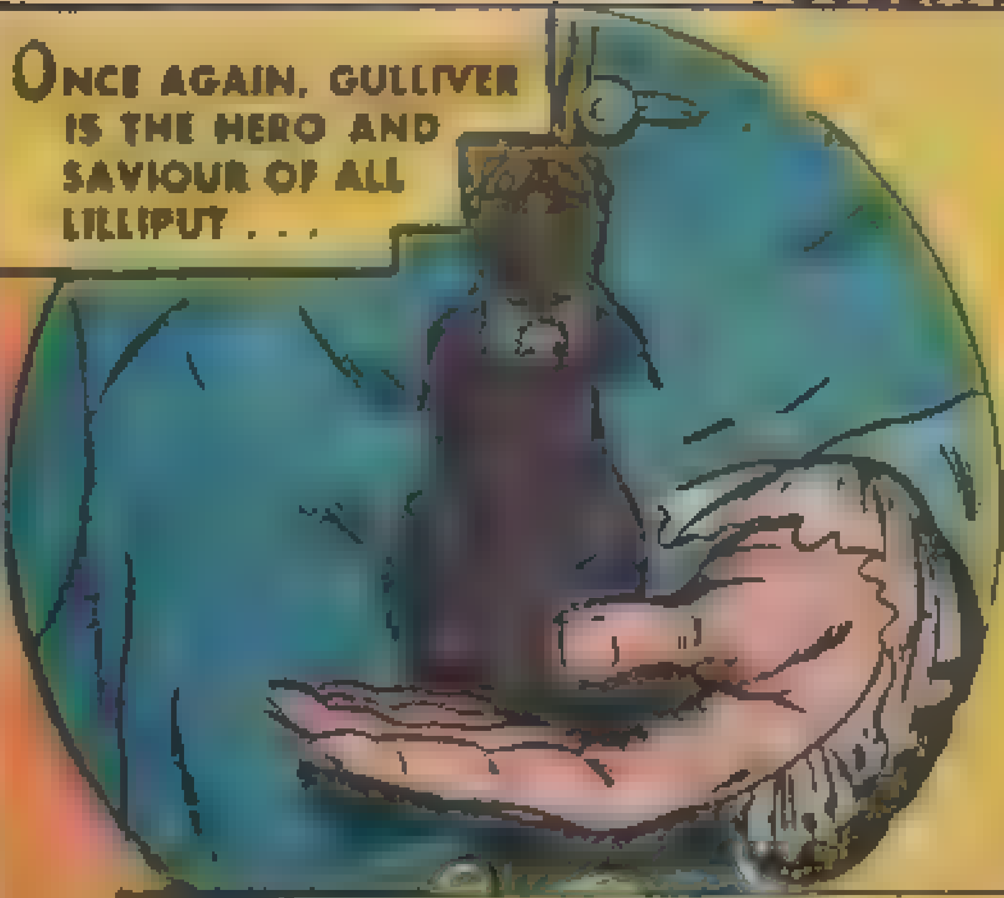



GULLIVER FEARS FOR HIS EYES . . . SWIFTLY HE TAKES HIS SPECTACLES FROM HIS POCKET . .

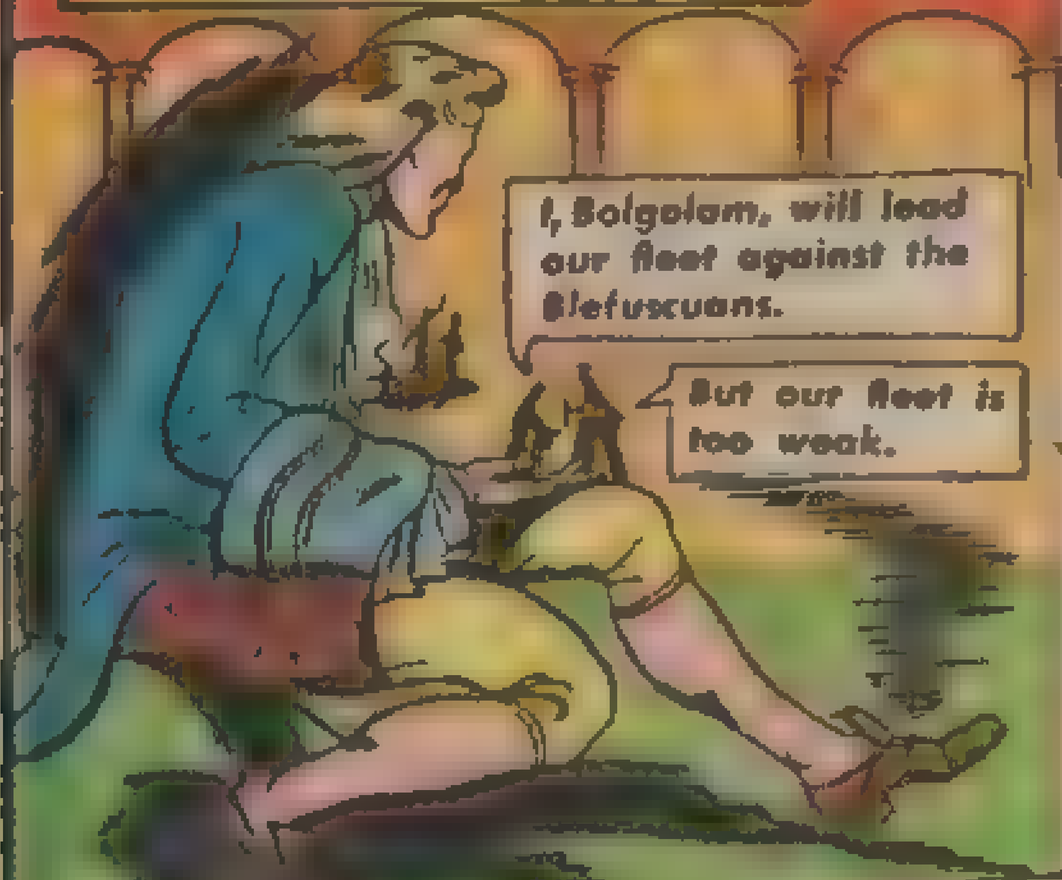



THE BLEFUSCUANS FLEE . . . ONLY TO FIND THAT THE LILLIPUTIANS HAVE MANEUVERED BEHIND THEM.


THE INVADERS ARE TAKEN PRISONER


ONCE AGAIN, GULLIVER IS THE HERO AND SAVIOUR OF ALL LILLIPUT . . .
. . . HE RECEIVES THE COUNTRY'S HIGHEST DECORATION.

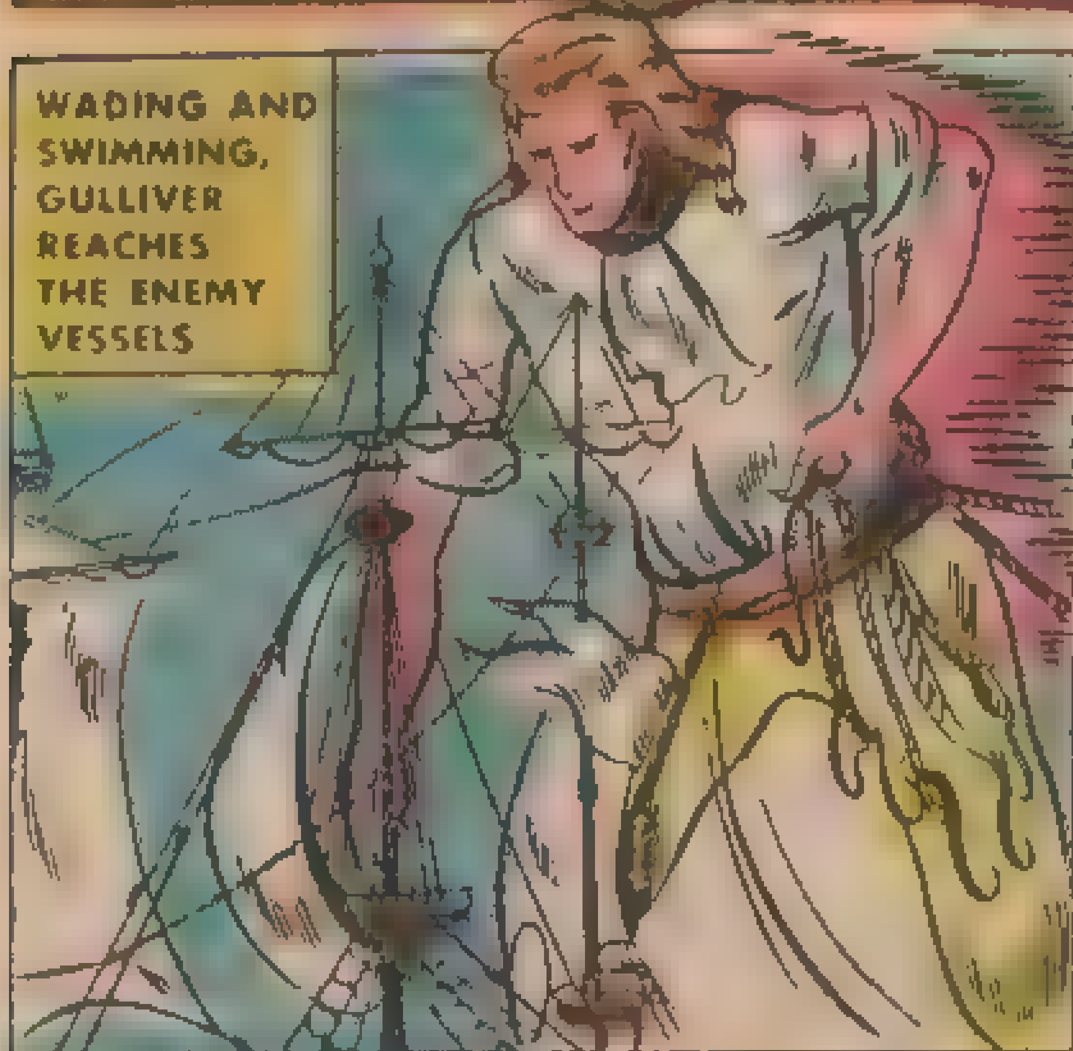

BUT THE WAR IS NOT YET OVER.
Our spies report that the Blefuscuans are sending a great fleet against us.

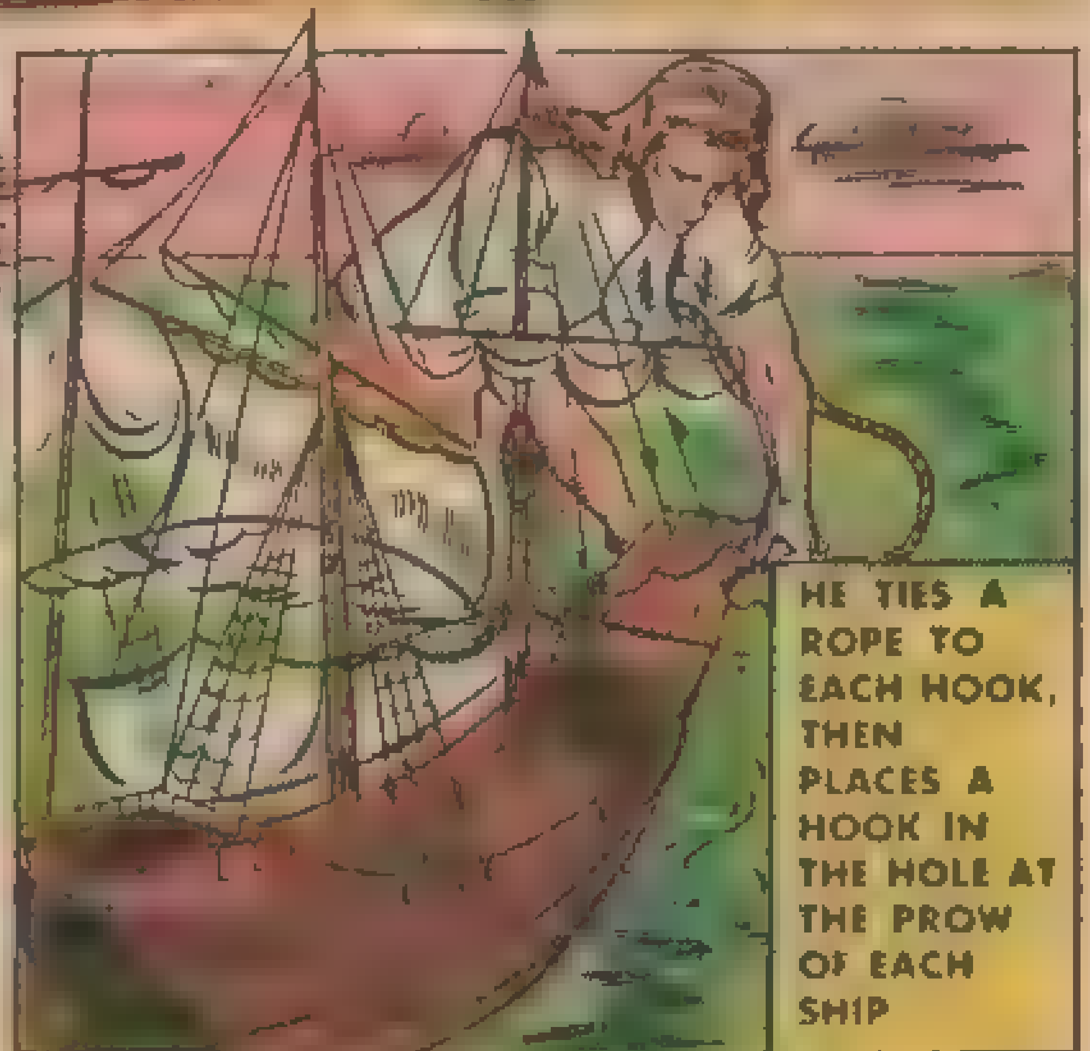

A WAR CONFERENCE IS HELD . . .
I, Bolgolam, will lead our fleet against the Blefuscuans.
But our fleet is too weak.

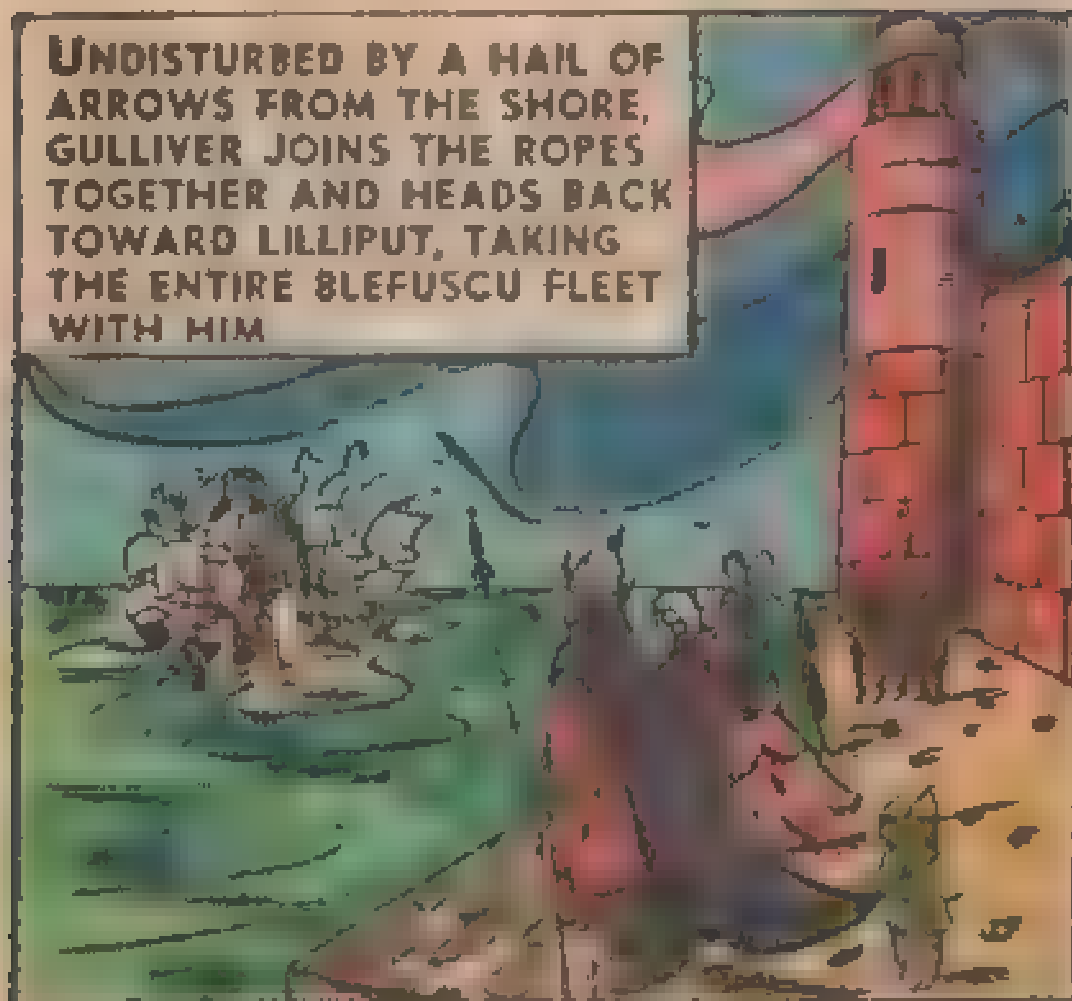

I can stop them.


GULLIVER STARTS FOR BLEFUSCU'S NAVAL BASE.

EIGHT HUNDRED YARDS ACROSS THE WATER LIES BLEFUSCU. ITS FLEET, CONSISTING OF FIFTY MEN OF-WAR, LIES AT ANCHOR, READY FOR THE NEXT DAY'S INVASION



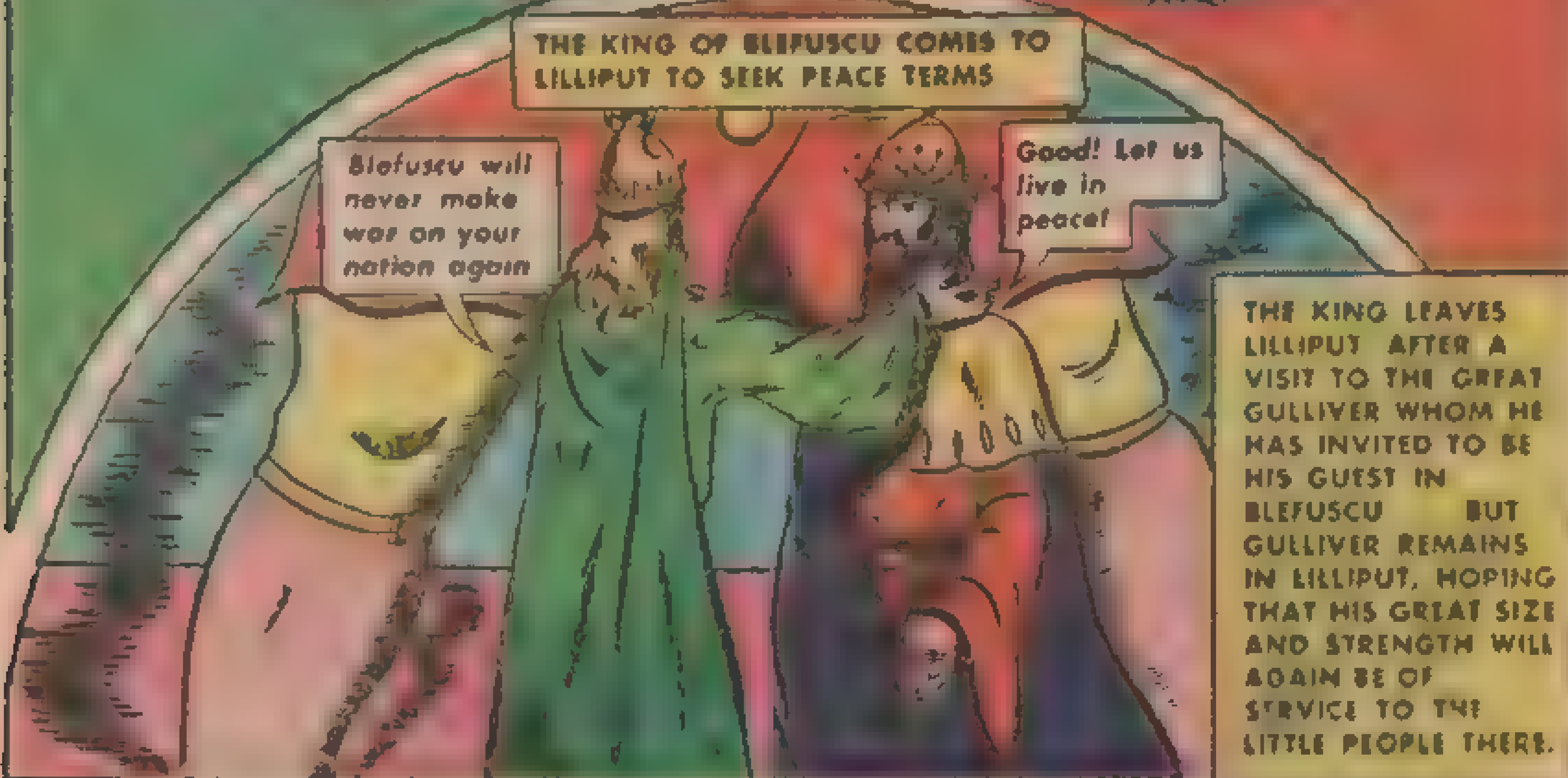


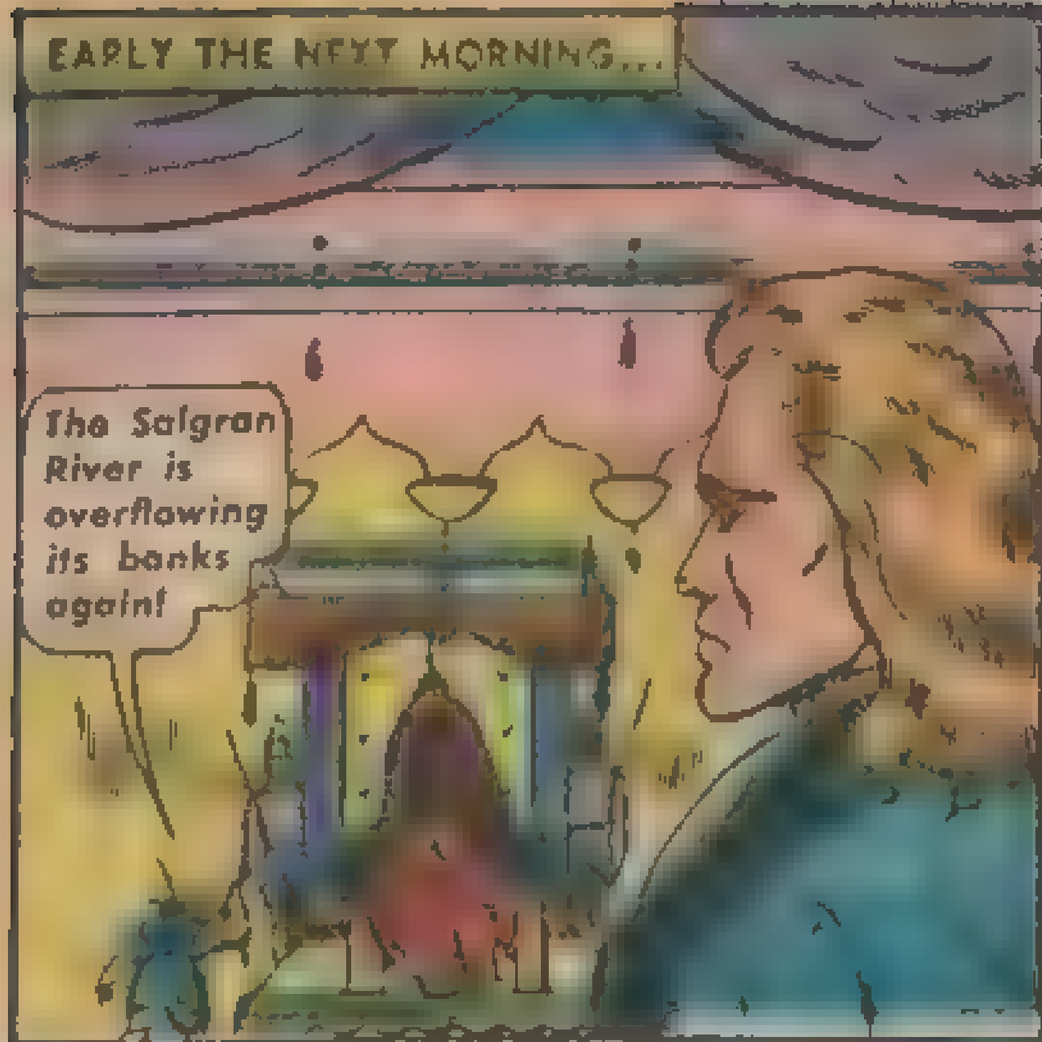

UNDISTURBED BY A HAIL OF ARROWS FROM THE SHORE, GULLIVER JOINS THE ROPES TOGETHER AND HEADS BACK TOWARD LILLIPUT, TAKING THE ENTIRE BLEFUSCU FLEET WITH HIM


Your majesty, these ships are now yours
You have saved our country No honor is too great for you


If I don't do something, this Gulliver will replace me as admiral


BACK IN BLEFUSCU, CAPTURE OF THE GREAT FLEET HAS STUNNED THE ENEMY THE KING HASTILY CALLS A WAR COUNCIL
This giant is too much for us. We must make peace with Lilliput.


THE KING OF BLEFUSCU COMES TO LILLIPUT TO SEEK PEACE TERMS
Blefuscu will never make war on your nation again
Good! Let us live in peace!
THE KING LEAVES LILLIPUT AFTER A VISIT TO THE GREAT GULLIVER WHOM HE HAS INVITED TO BE HIS GUEST IN BLEFUSCU BUT GULLIVER REMAINS IN LILLIPUT, HOPING THAT HIS GREAT SIZE AND STRENGTH WILL AGAIN BE OF SERVICE TO THE LITTLE PEOPLE THERE.

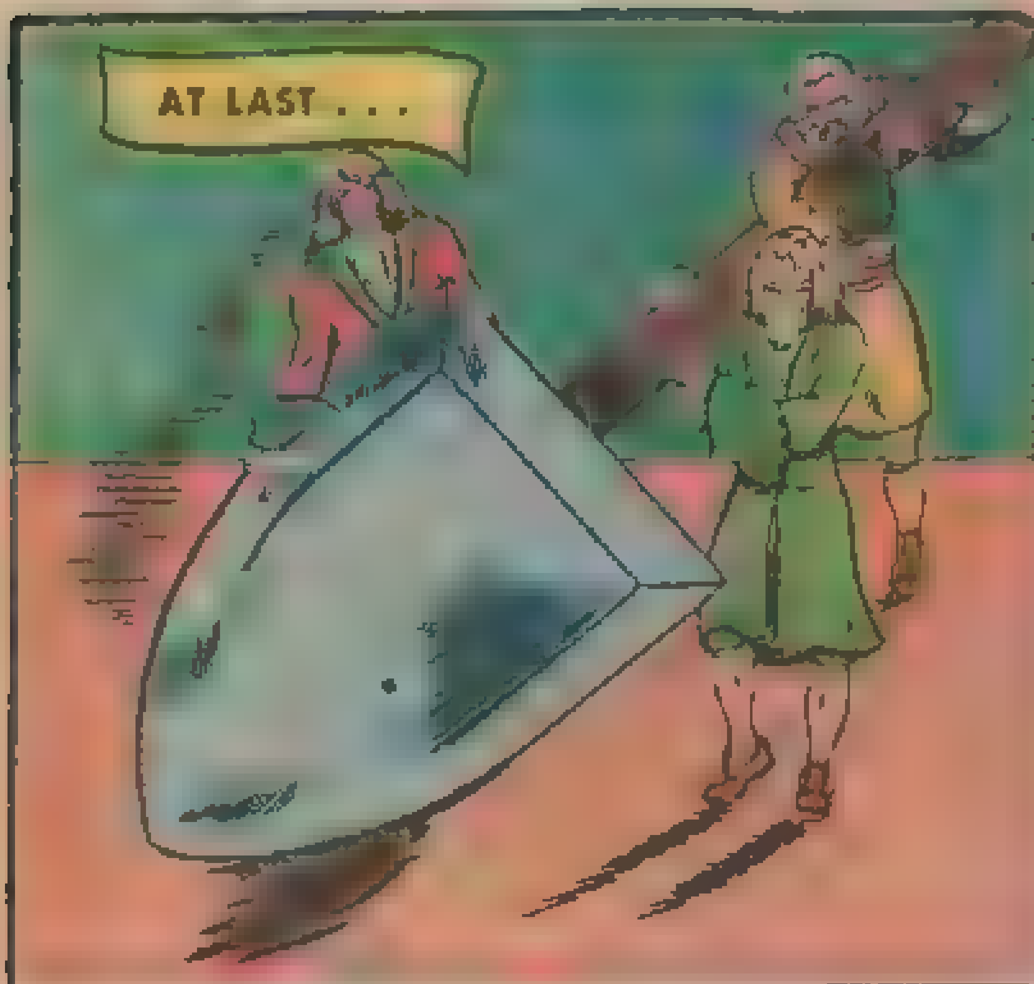

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING...
The Salgran River is overflowing its banks again!


The towns in the valley will be flooded!

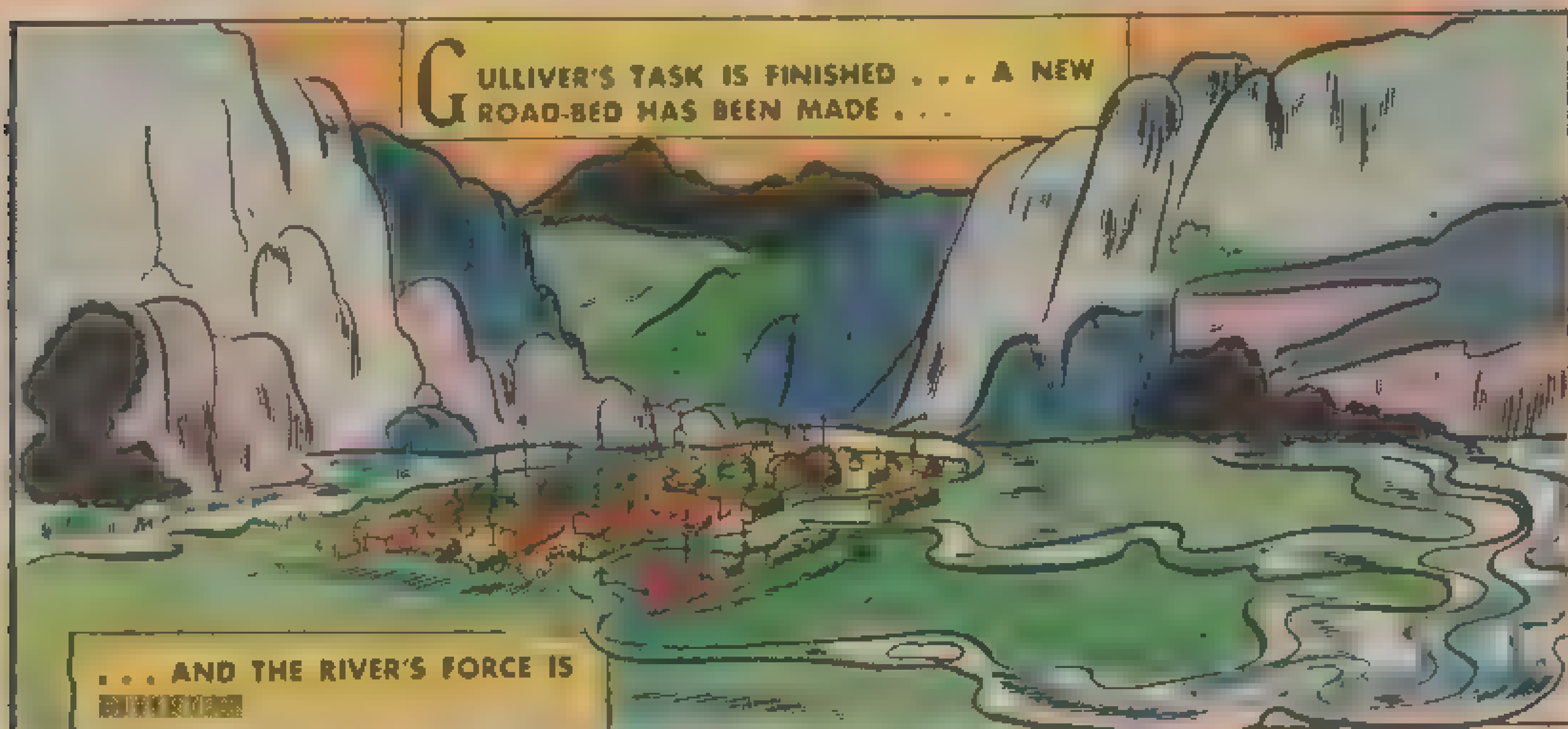


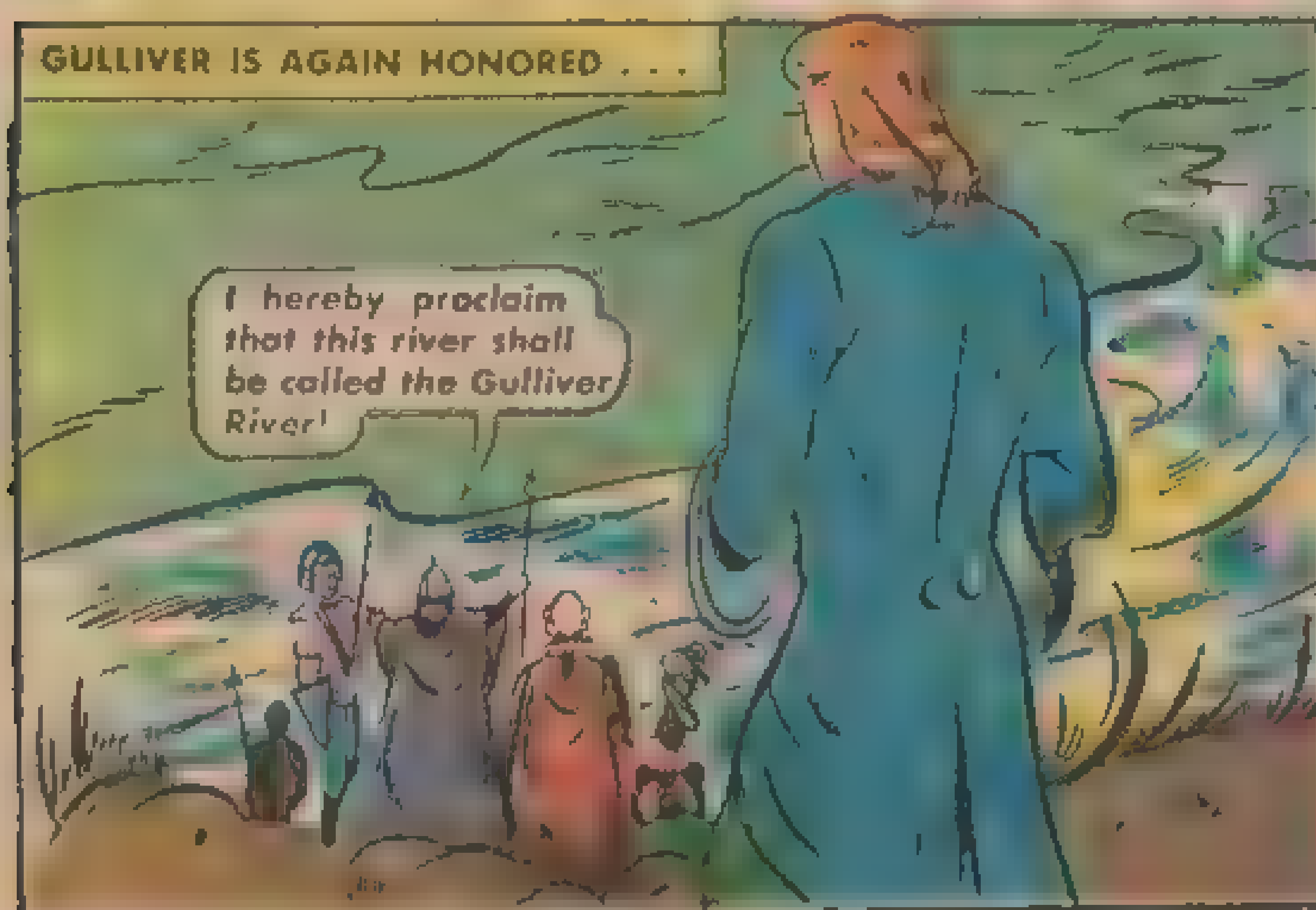

I will stop it! Command your metal workers to make a shovel
Every year this catastrophe occurs. We cannot stop it.


...fifteen times as large as this! ...Tell them to hurry!









THIS LATEST HONOR BESTOWED ON GULLIVER FURTHER INCENSES THE JEALOUS BOLGOLAM, WHO, DREAMING OF NEW CONQUESTS TO GAIN THE EMPEROR'S FAVOR, GOADS THE EMPEROR TO SEND A FLEET AGAINST BLEFUSCU. HIS MAJESTY IS TEMPTED BY THIS GRAND VISION OF CONQUEST, AND BOLGOLAM HAPPILY SEES HIMSELF AS COMMANDER OF THE FLEET, BUT..

... THE EMPEROR CALLS FOR GULLIVER!

You sent for me, your majesty?

Yes, you can do a great service for Lilliput by helping us to conquer Blefuscu.

But, your majesty, we have signed a treaty of peace with Blefuscu.

That is right, but..

What is a treaty? A scrap of paper. We must conquer Blefuscu for our own security and glory!

BUT GULLIVER REFUSES TO TAKE PART IN TREACHERY.

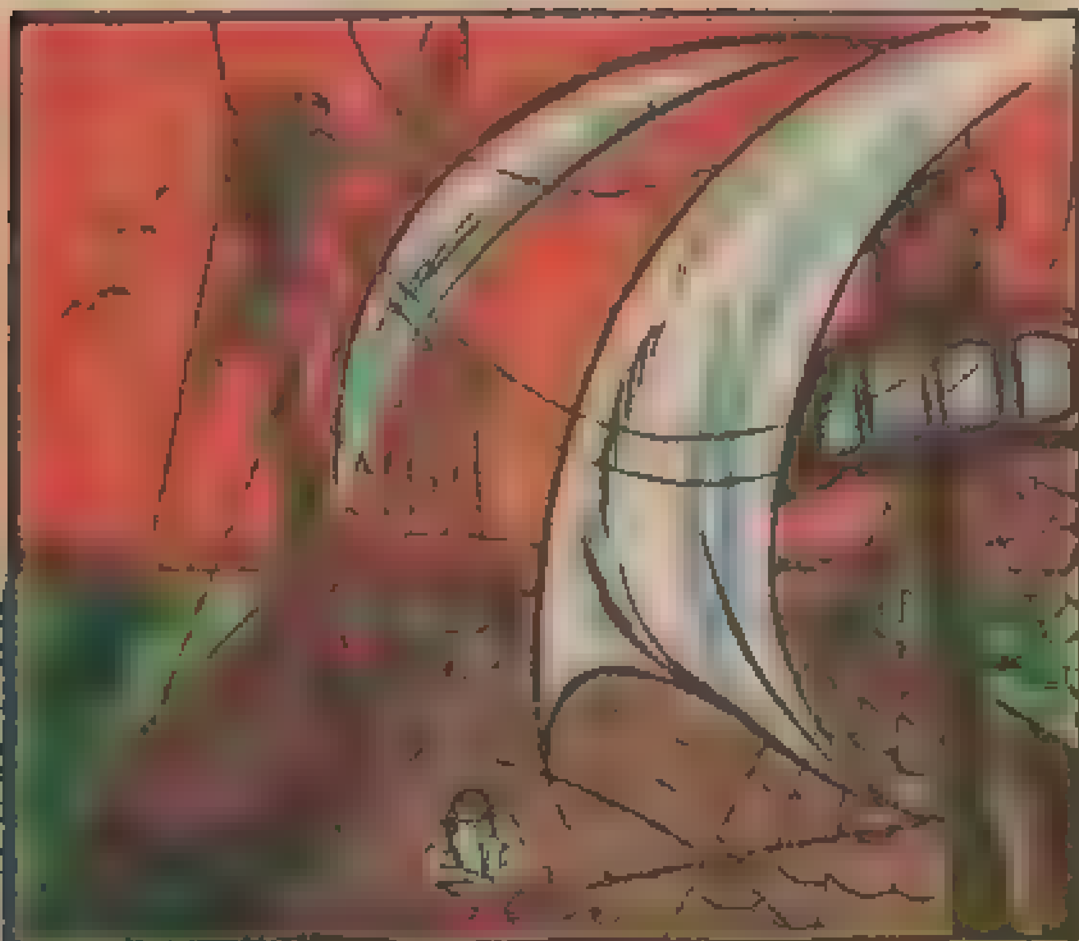
It would be wrong for you to invade a helpless nation with whom we are at peace

THUS, INNOCENTLY, GULLIVER PLAYS INTO BOLGOLAM'S HANDS.

Perhaps Gulliver is not our friend, or why should he dissuade you from becoming a conqueror? Who knows? He may be turning against us. Let us not listen to him!

Gulliver may be right.

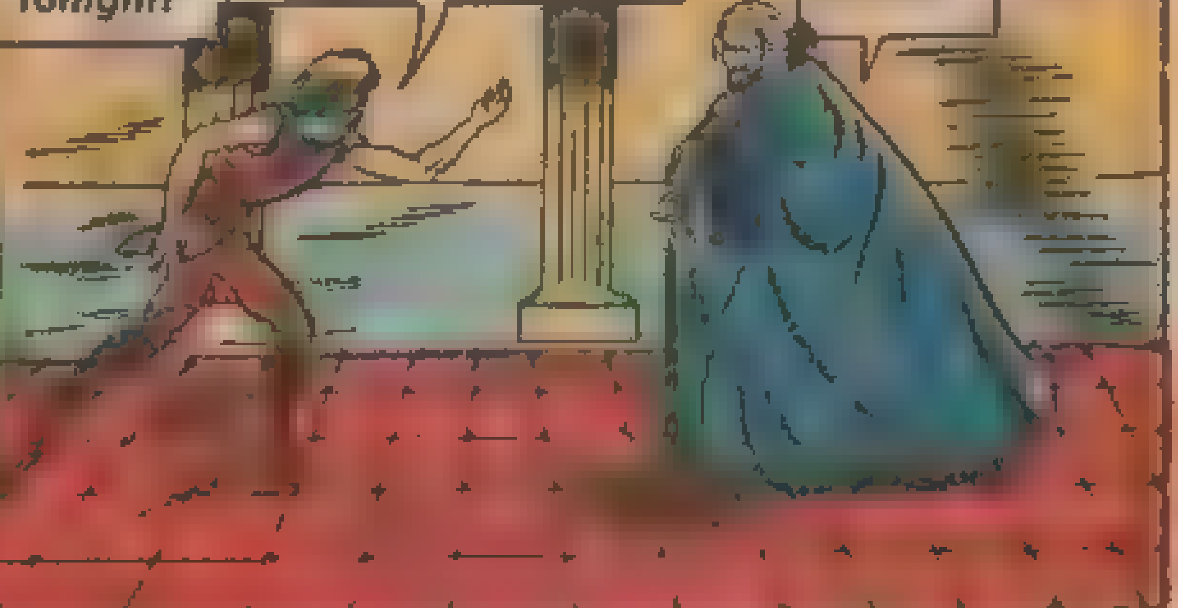
Very well Prepare the fleet and the army for an invasion



SECRETLY, BOLGOLAM PREPARES FOR THE ASSAULT.



BUT BEFORE LAUNCHING THE TREACHEROUS ATTACK, HE INTENDS TO MAKE SURE GULLIVER WILL BE UNABLE TO INTERFERE. HE PLANS TO CONVINCE THE EMPEROR THAT GULLIVER MUST BE DONE AWAY WITH. A HENCHMAN BRINGS HIM THE NEWS HE HAS BEEN WAITING FOR . . .





GULLIVER RECEIVES THE AMBASSADOR CORDIALLY, UNAWARE THAT HIS EVERY MOVE IS BEING WATCHED BY THE TREACHEROUS, SPYING PAIR WHO SEEK HIS DOOM.

THE AMBASSADOR BECOMES ATTRACTED BY GULLIVER'S WATCH AND GULLIVER IN FRIENDLY SPIRIT OFFERS IT TO HIM FOR A SOUVENIR. THE AMBASSADOR, WISHING TO RETURN THE TOKEN OF FRIENDSHIP, PROMISES TO BRING GULLIVER SOME GOLD COINS ON THE FOLLOWING NIGHT . . . AS A SOUVENIR OF BLEFUSCU.

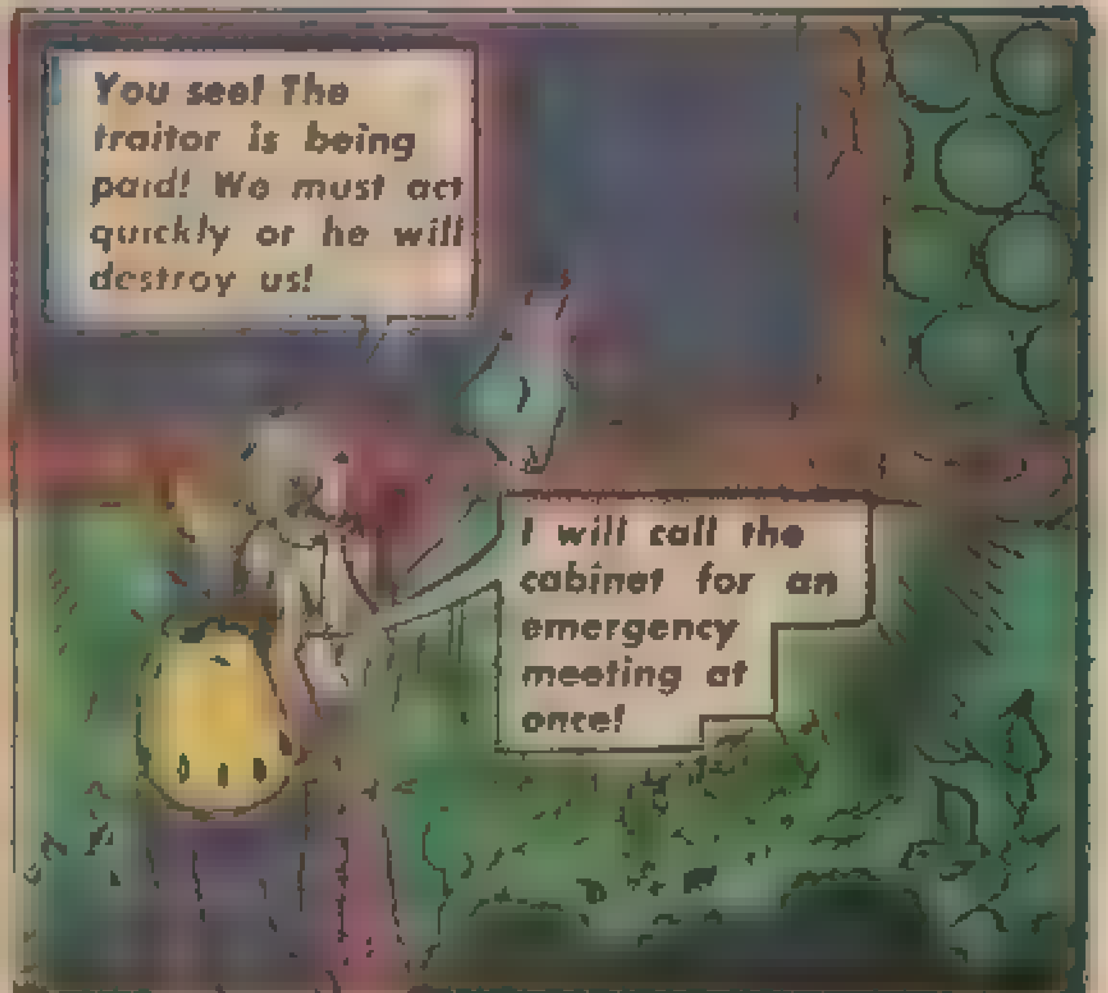
THAT IS ALL BOLGOLAM NEEDS TO HEAR... HURRYING TO THE EMPEROR, HE REPORTS THAT GULLIVER IS SELLING OUT MILITARY SECRETS TO BLEFUSCU FOR GOLD. "I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!" EXCLAIMS THE EMPEROR. "I WILL SHOW YOU PROOF," SMILES BOLGOLAM, "TOMORROW NIGHT."


THE FOLLOWING NIGHT . . .
We'll hide here and see what takes place.


A FEW MOMENTS LATER . . .
There he goes now. Watch closely, your majesty!


WILY BOLGOLAM HAS STATIONED HIMSELF AND THE EMPEROR IN A SPOT WHERE THEY CAN SEE . . . BUT CANNOT HEAR . . . WHAT GOES ON INSIDE GULLIVER'S HOUSE
Welcome! Have you brought the souvenir coins?
Certainly! Here they are. . .




You see! The traitor is being paid! We must act quickly or he will destroy us!
I will call the cabinet for an emergency meeting at once!

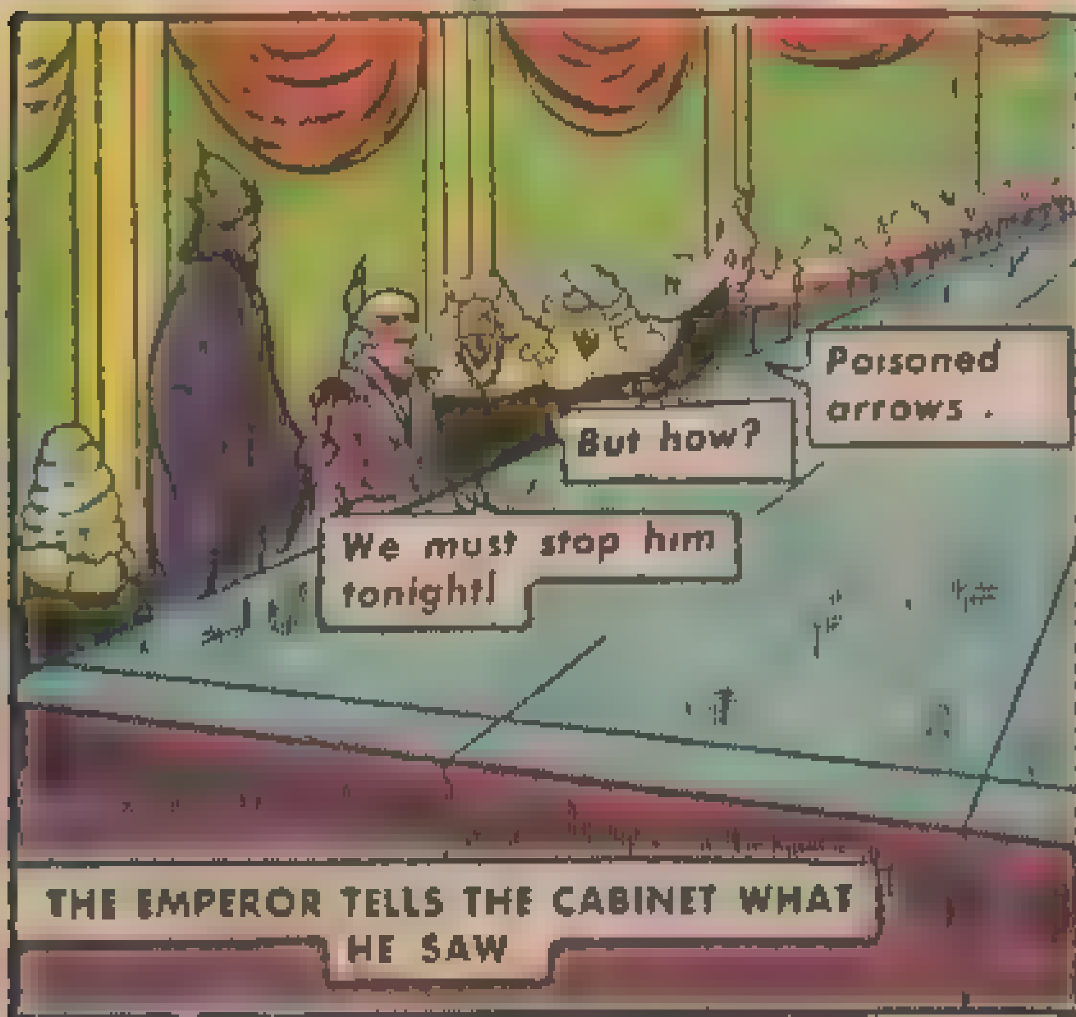
I regret to announce that we are harboring a traitor in our midst.

Yes . . Gulliver is plotting to turn us over as slaves to Blefuscu.

Gulliver!

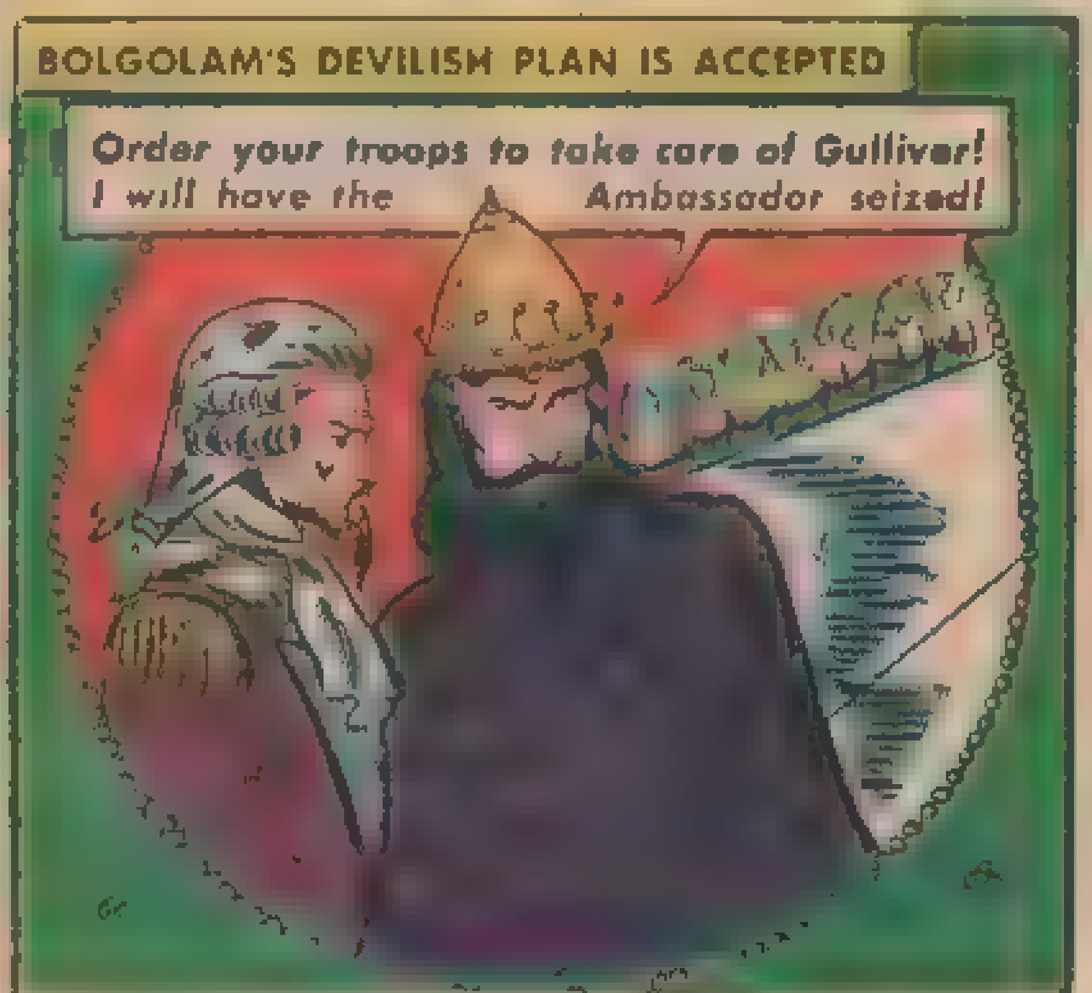
Impossible!

THE CABINET ASSEMBLES .









EVENTS MOVE RAPIDLY NOW

Why am I being arrested?

For conspiracy to destroy Lilliput!

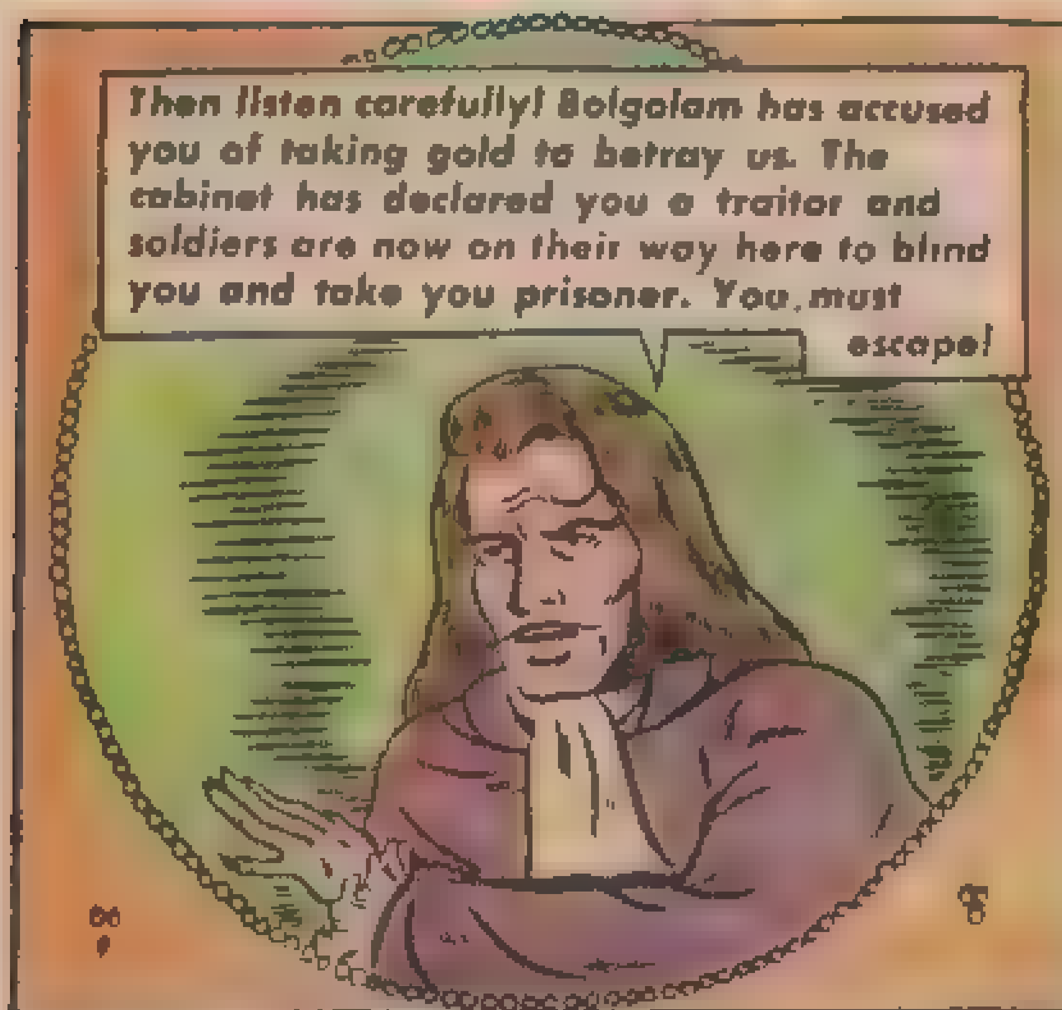
Approach the sleeping giant stealthily. Then strike!

White hot! These will do the trick!

Good! The traitor's eyes will be closed forever when you men are finished with him

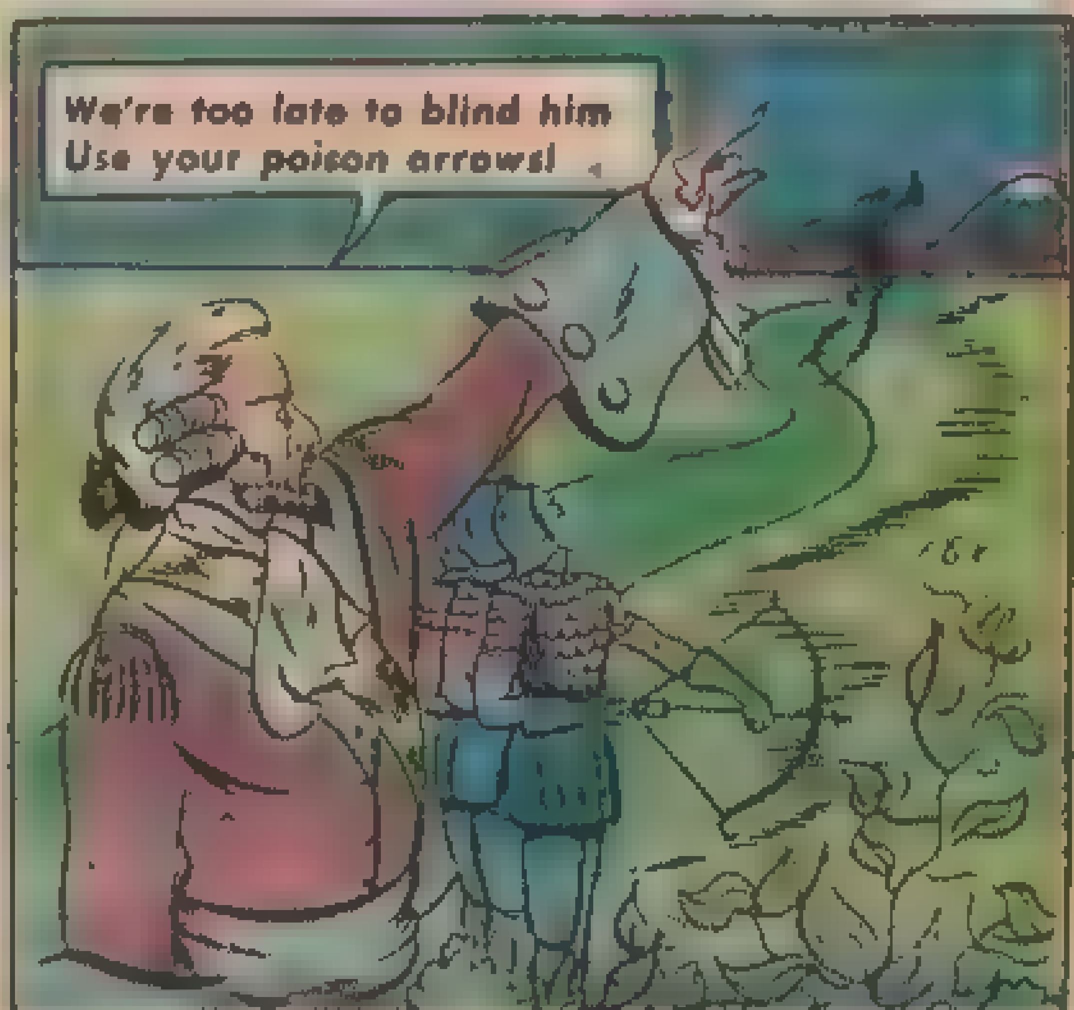
BUT ONE MINISTER IS STILL NOT CONVINCED THAT GULLIVER IS A TRAITOR THAT MINISTER IS GALBRU WHOSE LIFE GULLIVER HAD ONCE SAVED HASTENING TO GULLIVER'S HOUSE, GALBRU ROUSES HIM AND

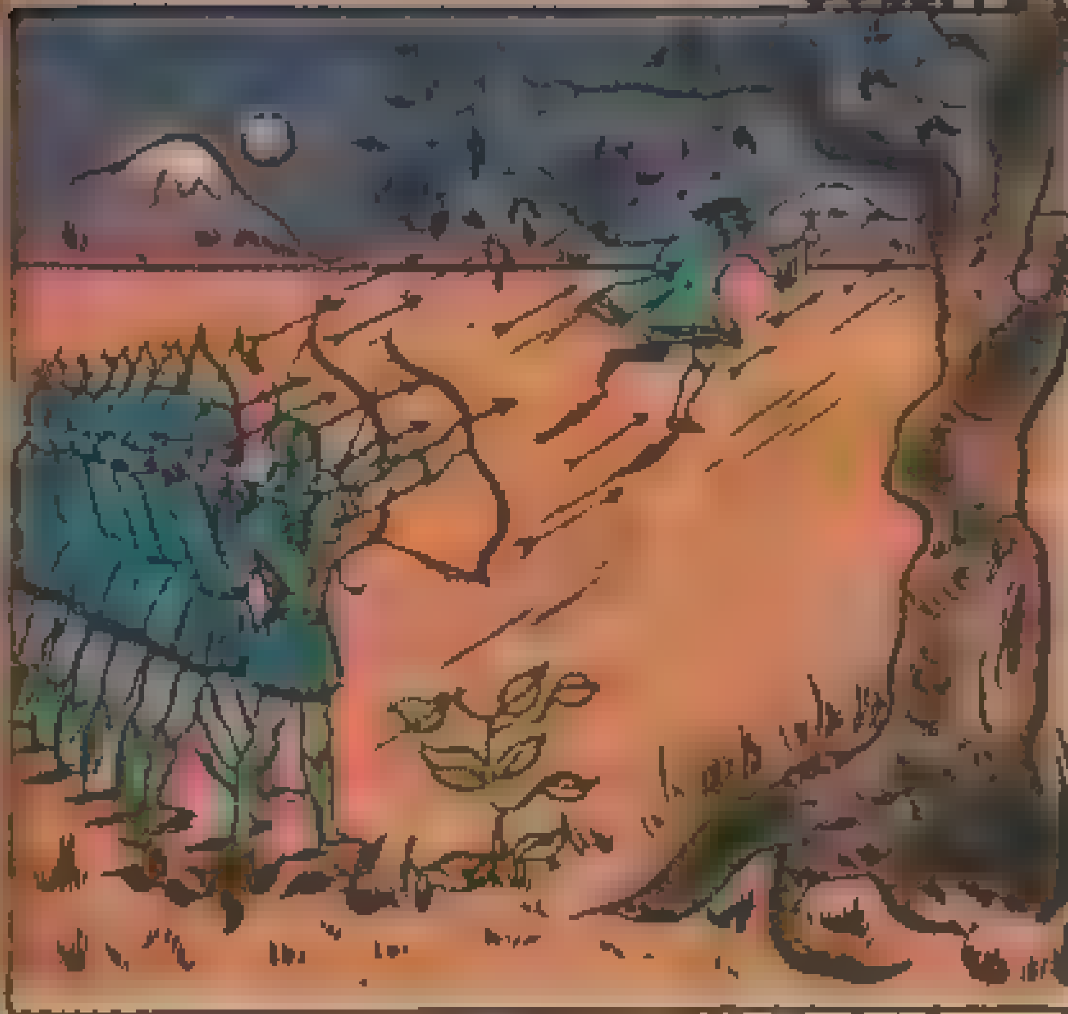

What is it, Galbru? You look very excited
Tell me, did you take gold earlier this evening from the Ambassador of Blefuscu?
GULLIVER EXPLAINS THE AMBASSADOR'S VISIT AND THE EXCHANGE OF SOUVENIRS GALBRU IS COMPLETELY CONVINCED OF GULLIVER'S INNOCENCE.

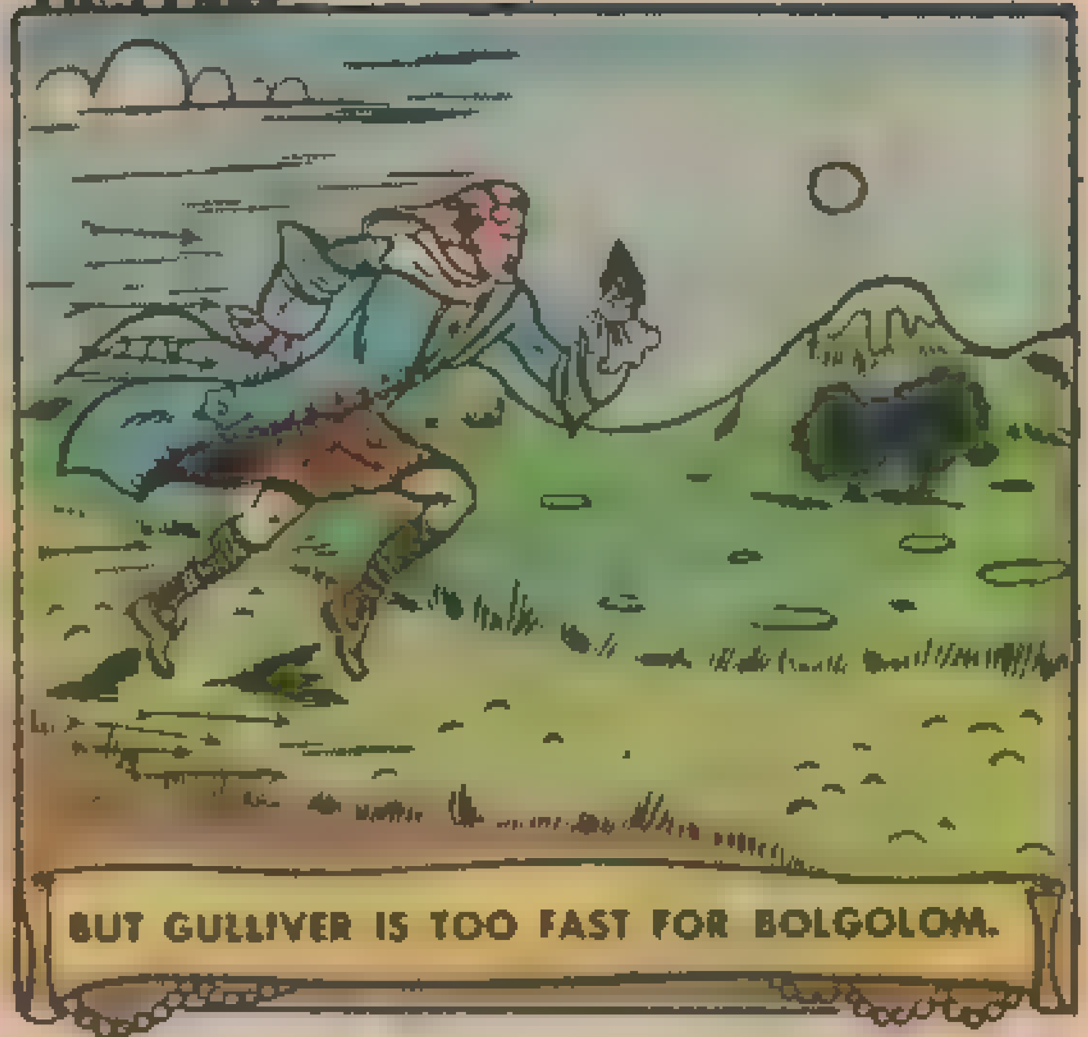

Then listen carefully! Bolgolam has accused you of taking gold to betray us. The cabinet has declared you a traitor and soldiers are now on their way here to blind you and take you prisoner. You must escape!

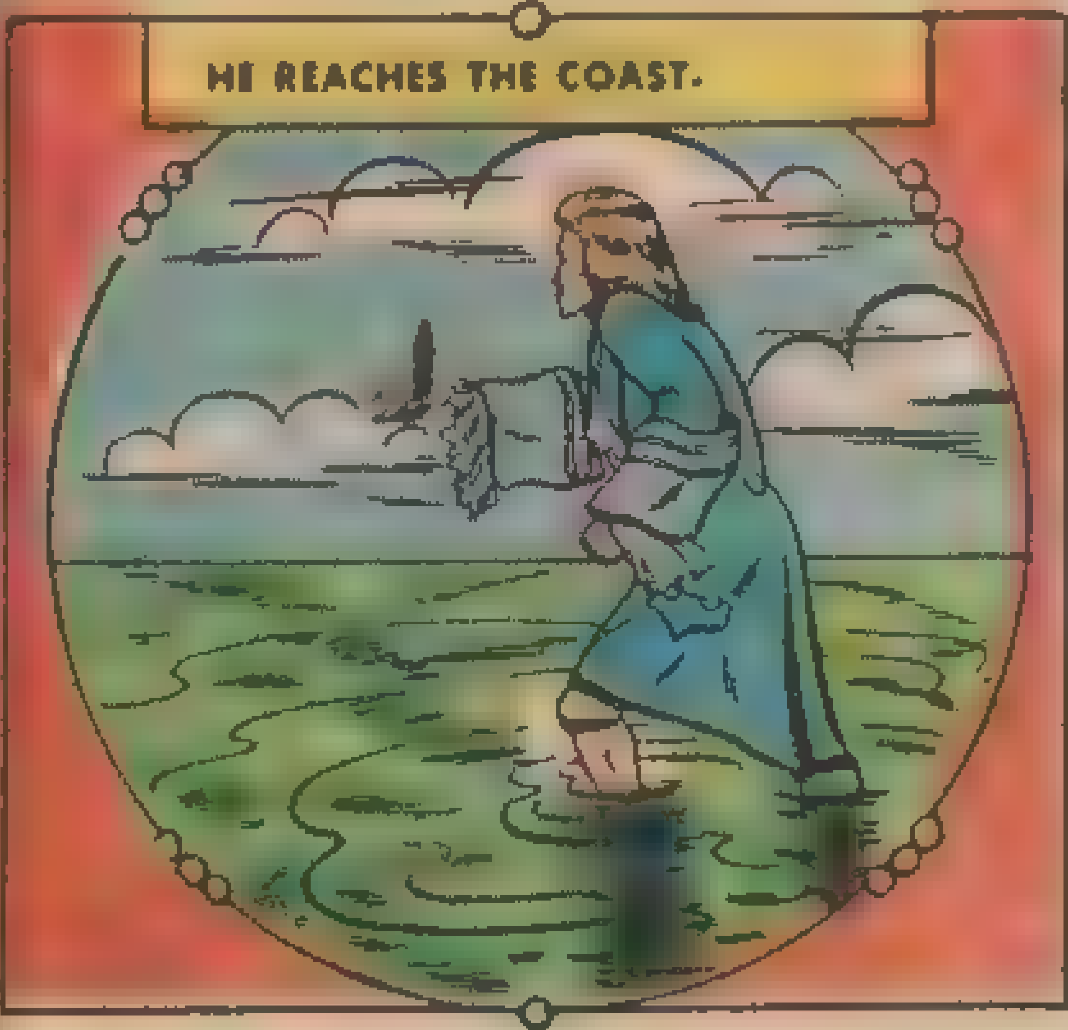

Here they come now with white hot irons for your eyes!
I will swim to Blefuscu!

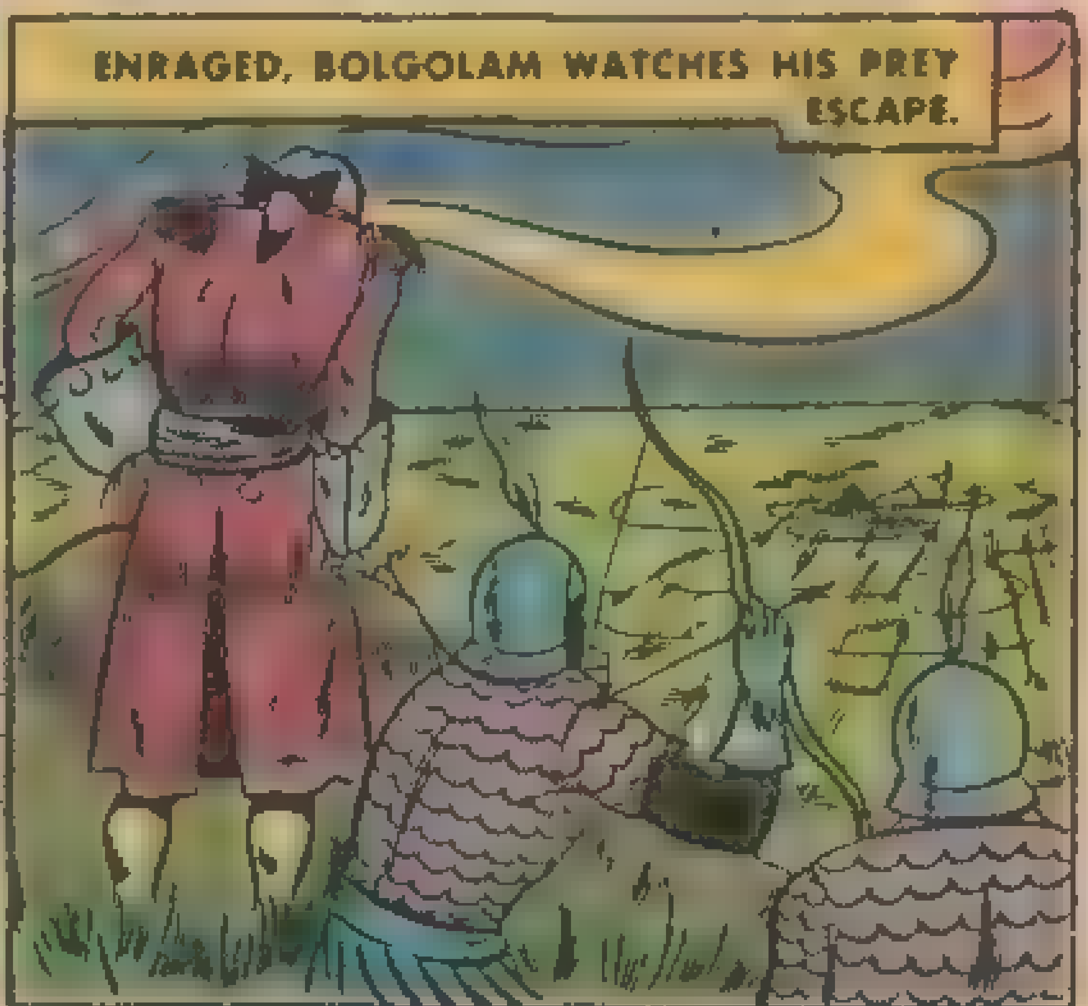

You must come with me, or Bolgolam will wreak his vengeance on you!

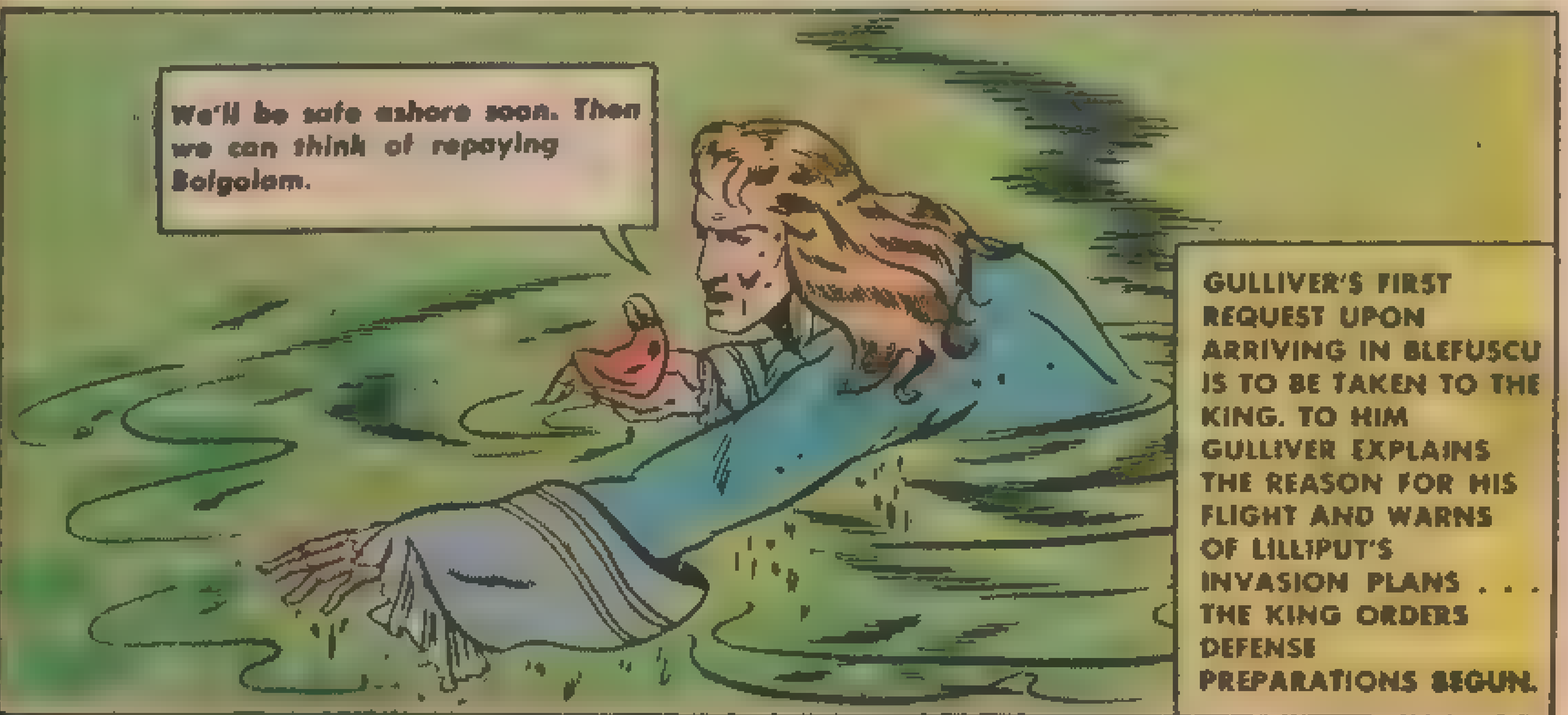

We're too late to blind him Use your poison arrows!




BUT GULLIVER IS TOO FAST FOR BOLGOLOM.

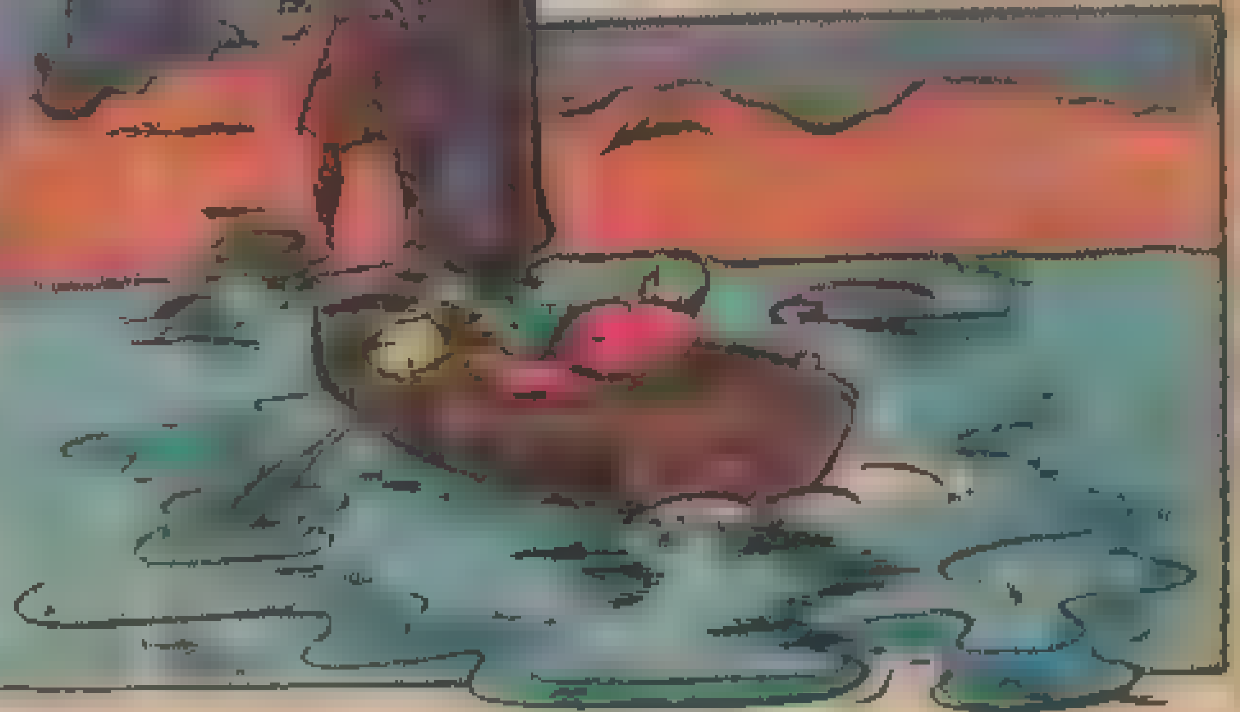

HE REACHES THE COAST.


ENRAGED, BOLGOLAM WATCHES HIS PREY ESCAPE.



GULLIVER'S FIRST REQUEST UPON ARRIVING IN BLEFUSCU IS TO BE TAKEN TO THE KING. TO HIM GULLIVER EXPLAINS THE REASON FOR HIS FLIGHT AND WARNS OF LILLIPUT'S INVASION PLANS . . . THE KING ORDERS DEFENSE PREPARATIONS BEGUN.

MEANWHILE BACK IN LILLIPUT MADDENED BY HIS LUST FOR POWER AND FOR GULLIVER'S LIFE BOLGOLAM PERSUADES THE EMPEROR OF LILLIPUT TO GO AHEAD WITH THEIR PLANS FOR THE SUBJUGATION OF BLEFUSCU THE IMPRISONED BLEFUSCUAN AMBASSADOR IS BROUGHT BEFORE THEM



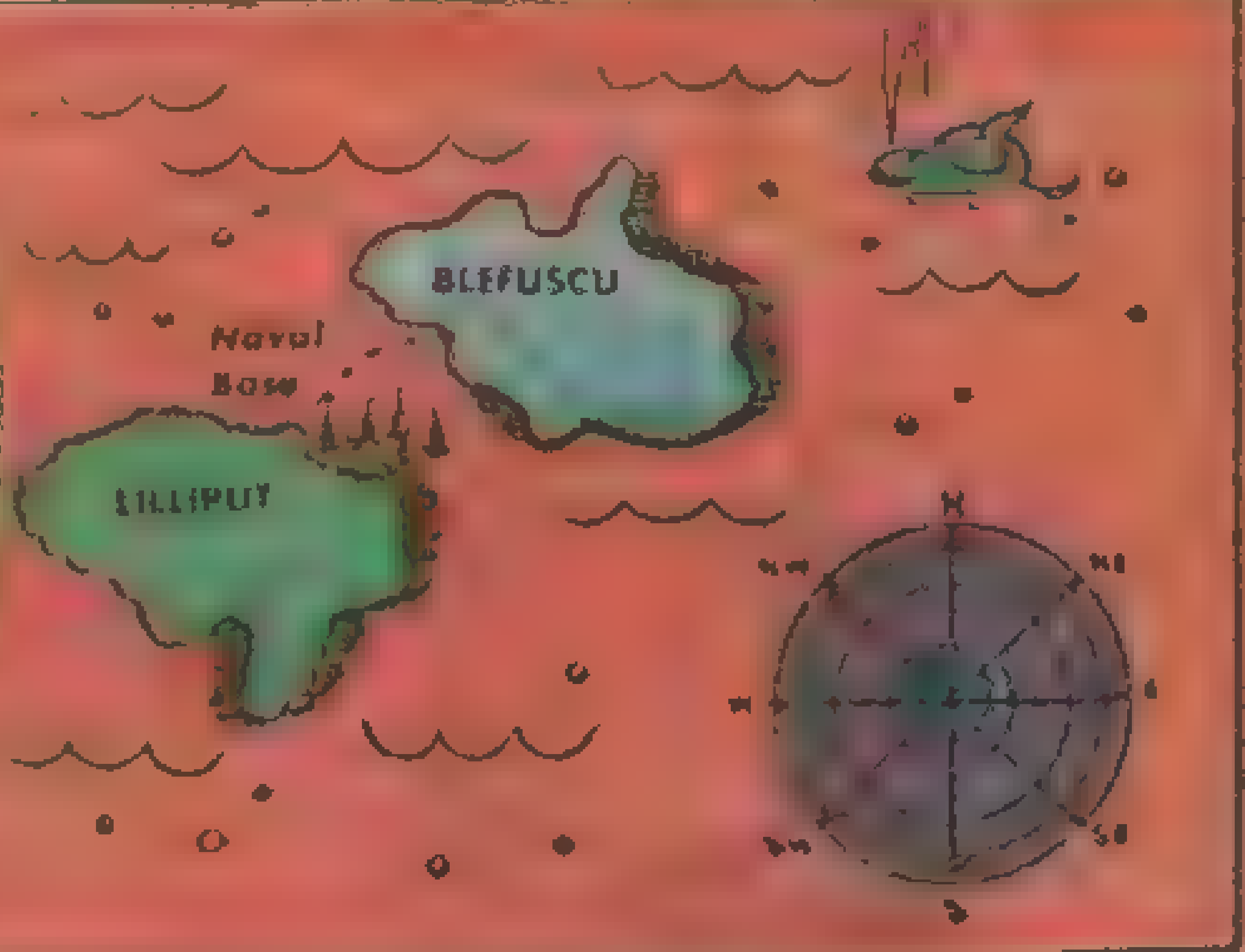
THE AMBASSADOR REPORTS BOLGOLAM'S ULTIMATUM TO GULLIVER AND THE KING





THE LILLIPUTIAN AMBASSADOR TO BLEFUSCU IS SENT BACK TO HIS COUNTRY TO GIVE BOLGOLAM AND THE EMPEROR BLEFUSCU'S ANSWER TO THEIR DEMANDS

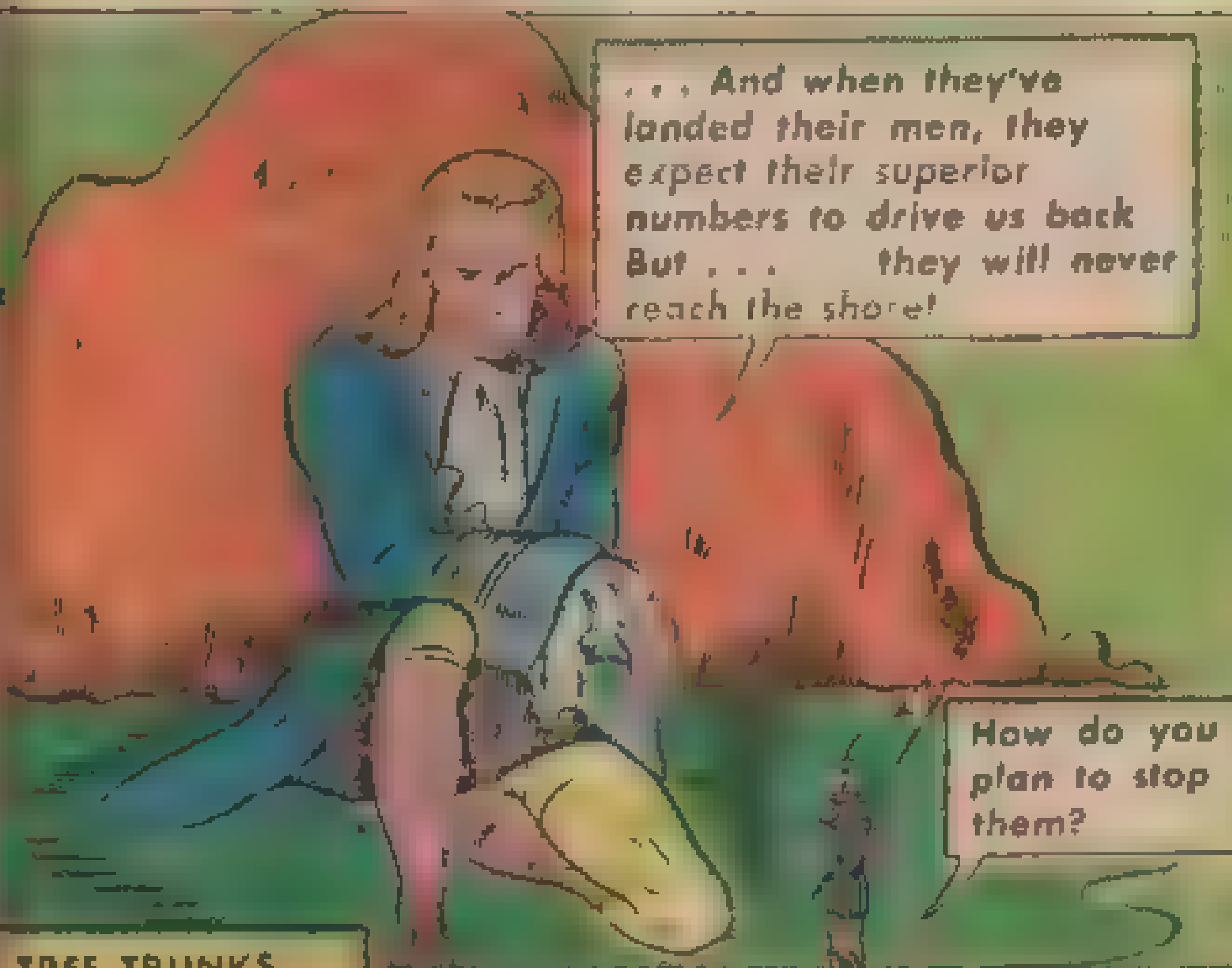
WAR BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS IS INEVITABLE. THIS TIME THE LILLIPUTIANS ARE THE INVADERS AND BOLGOLAM HAS UNDER HIS COMMAND THE COMBINED FLEETS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, WHILE BLEFUSCU HAS NO SHIPS AT ALL. BUT THIS TIME, GULLIVER IS ON THE SIDE OF BLEFUSCU



GULLIVER TAKES CHARGE OF BLEFUSCU'S DEFENSE PREPARATIONS.

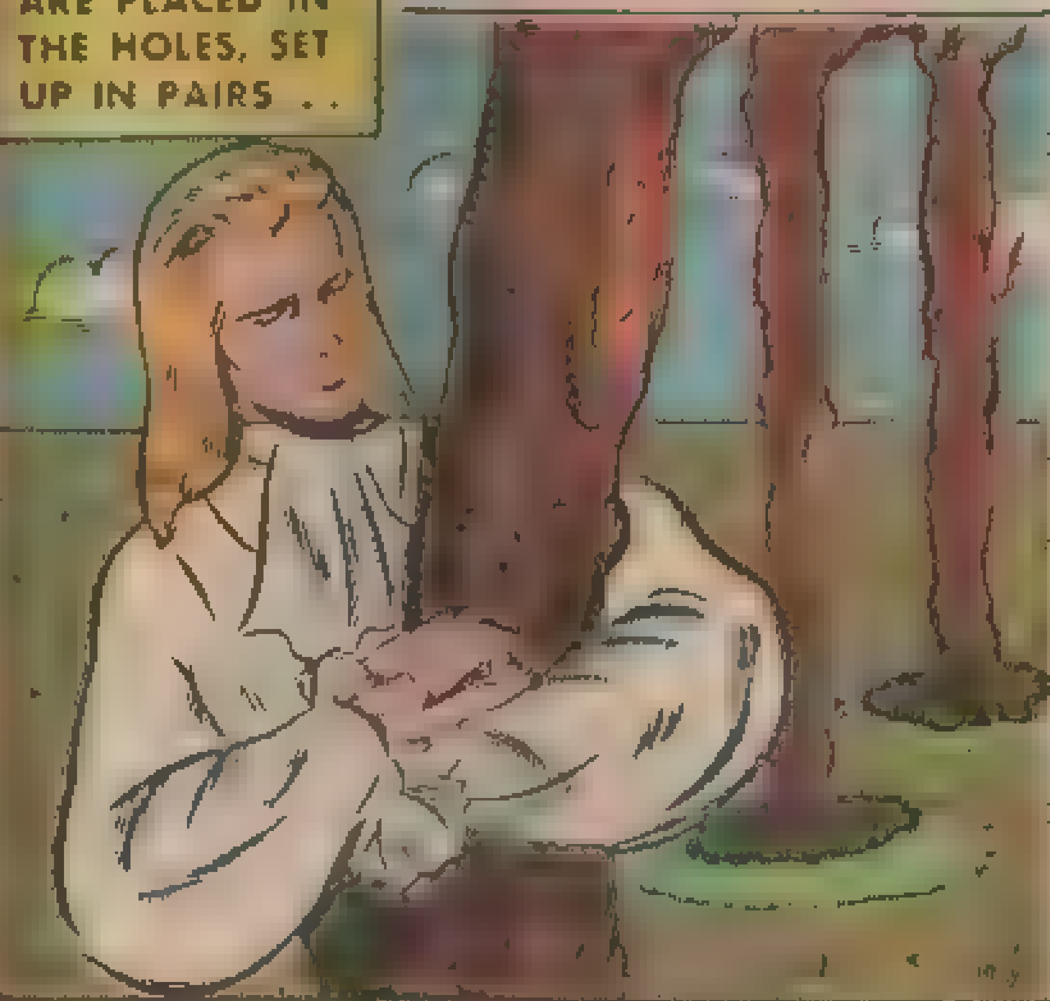


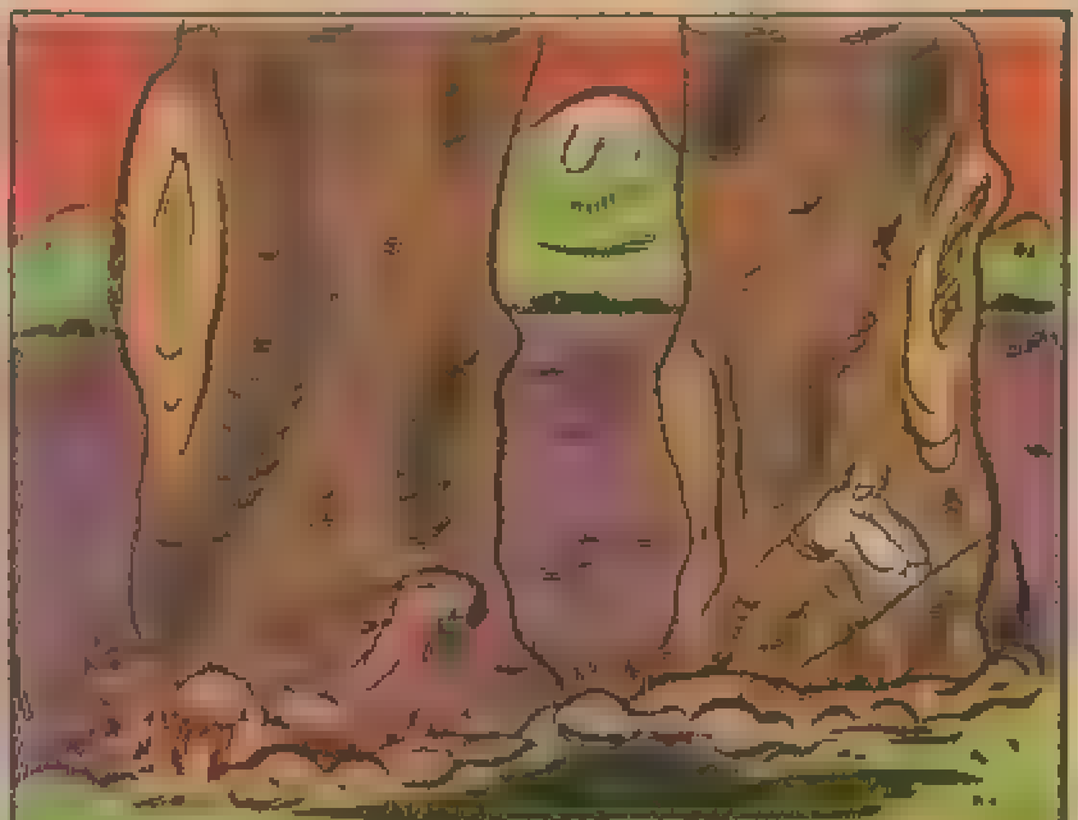




A HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE WATER'S EDGE, A ROW OF HILLS LIKE A NATURAL BARRIER RISES ABOVE THE BEACH. HERE, GULLIVER ORDERS WORKMEN TO DIG DEEP HOLES IN THE GROUND.

TREE TRUNKS ARE PLACED IN THE HOLES, SET UP IN PAIRS . .

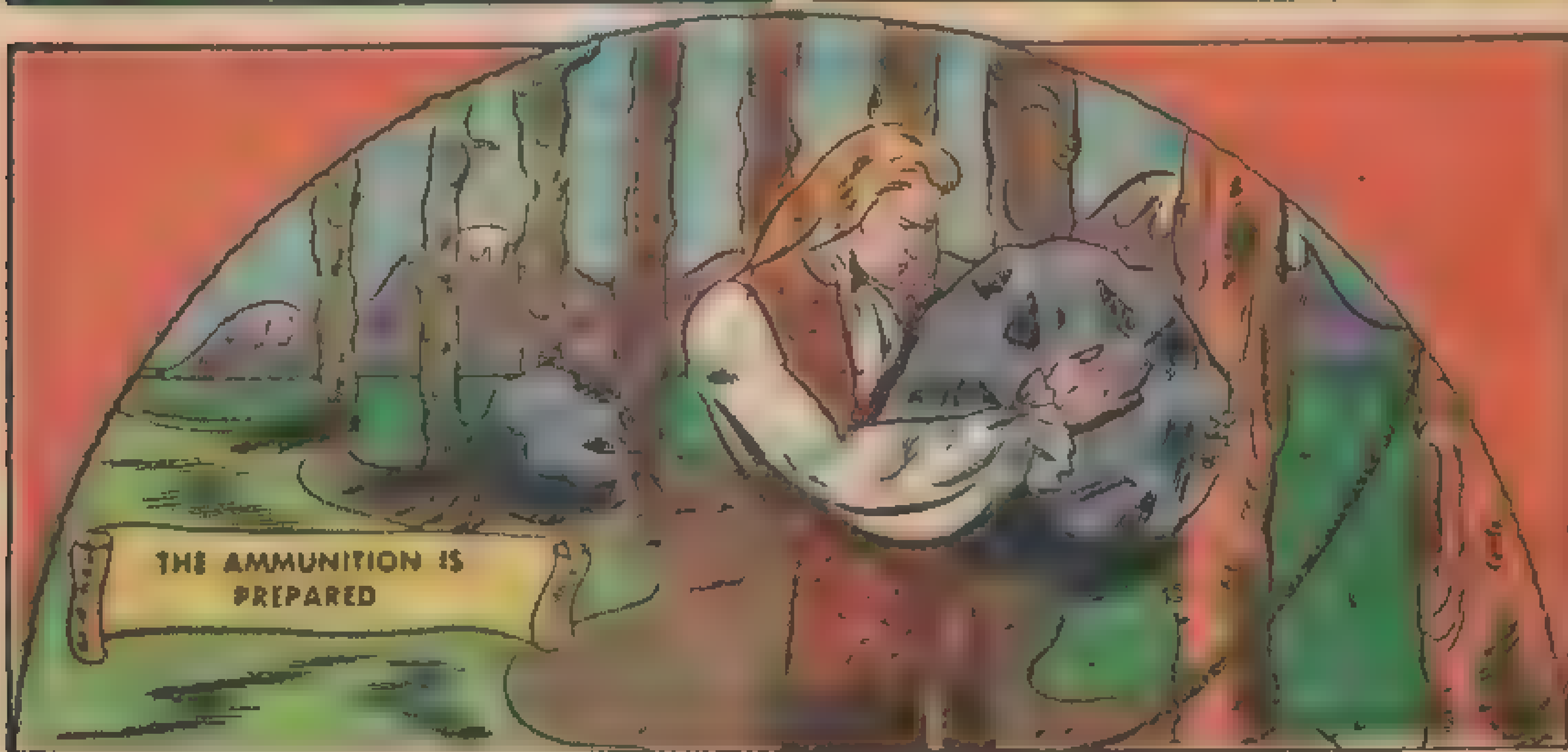


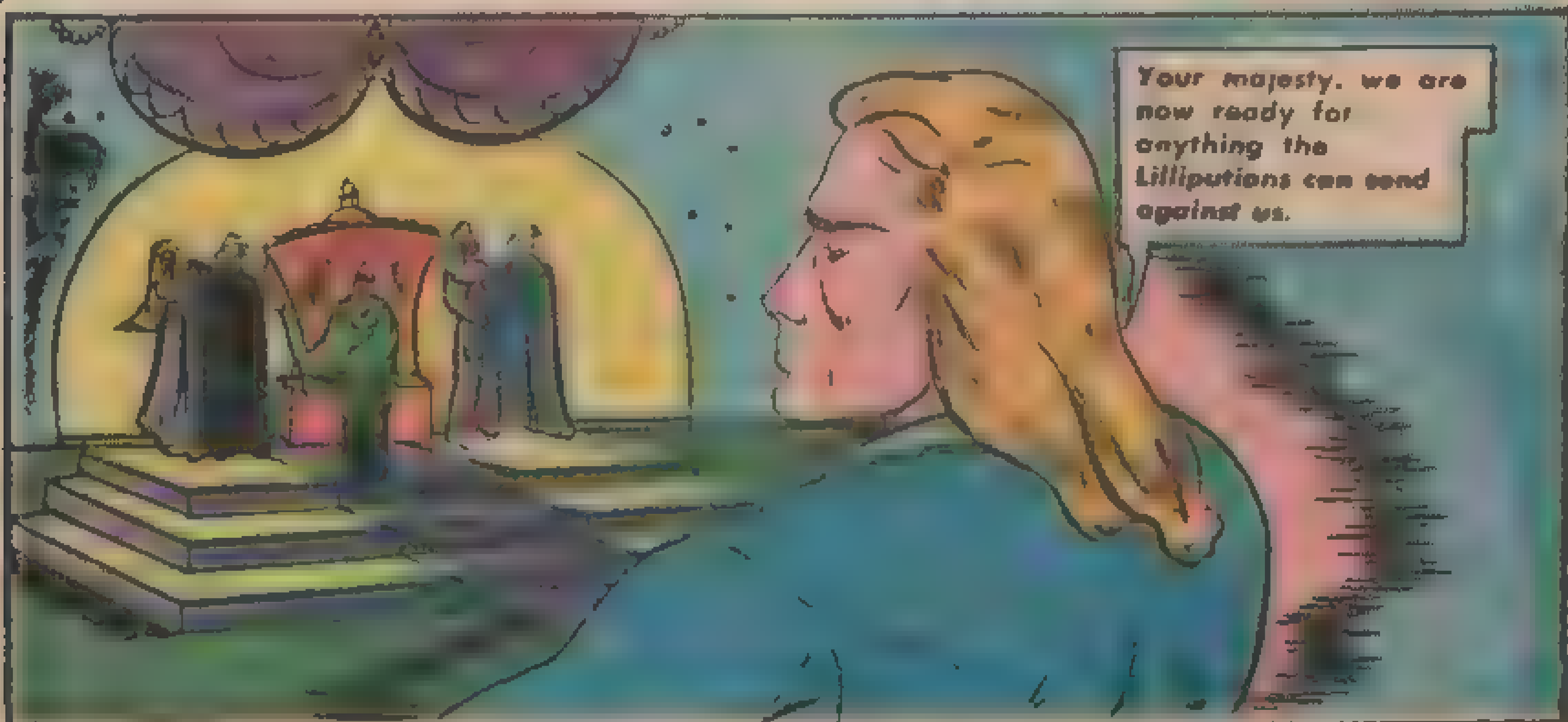


. . . THEN THE TREES ARE FIRMLY BEDDED IN THE GROUND. . .


HEAVY ROPES ARE TIED TO THE TOP OF THE TREE TRUNKS

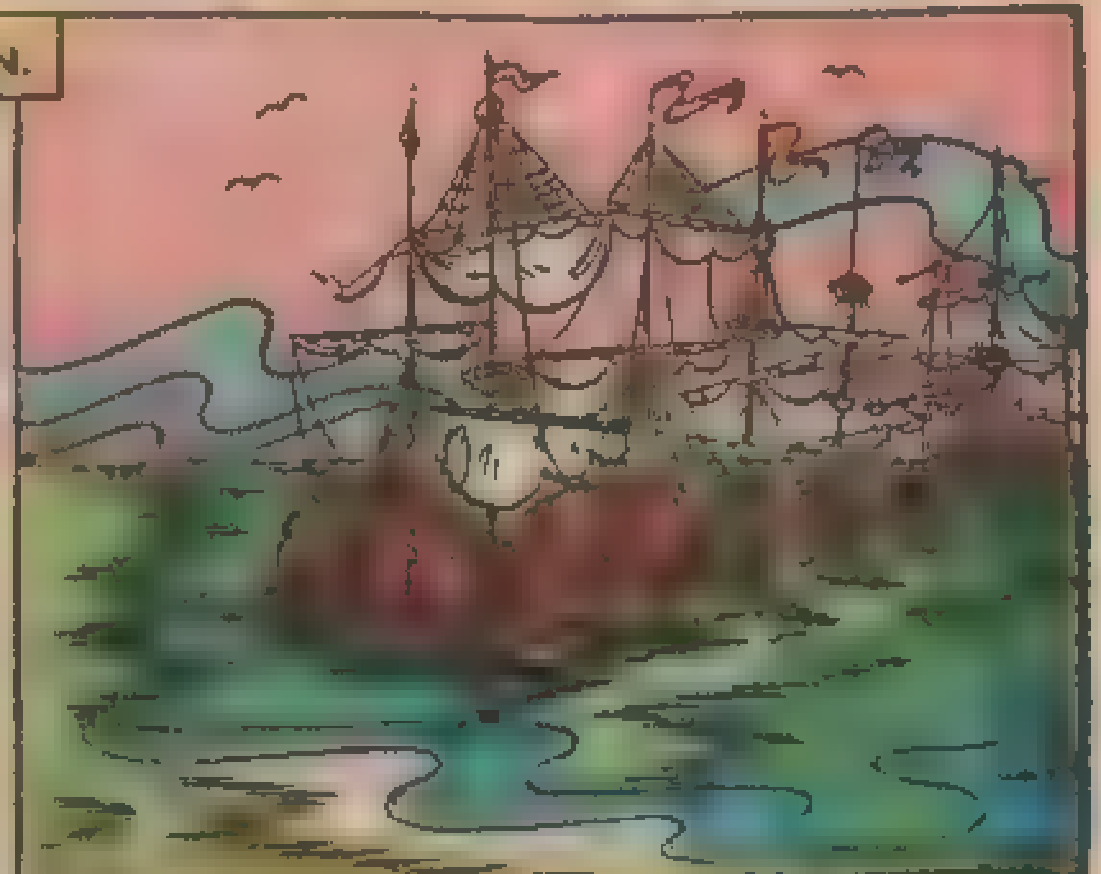

GIGANTIC SLING SHOTS ARE NOW READY TO MEET THE LILLIPUTIANS.

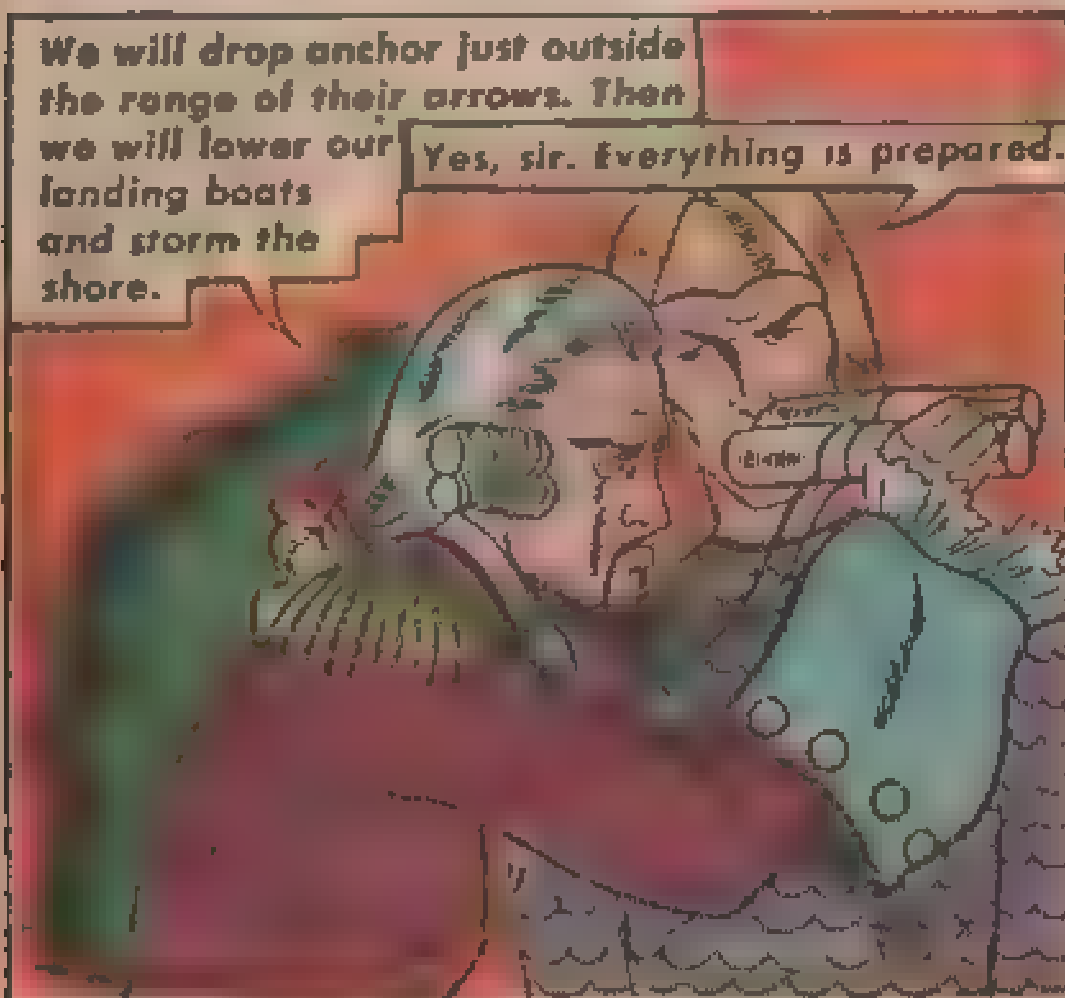

THE AMMUNITION IS PREPARED

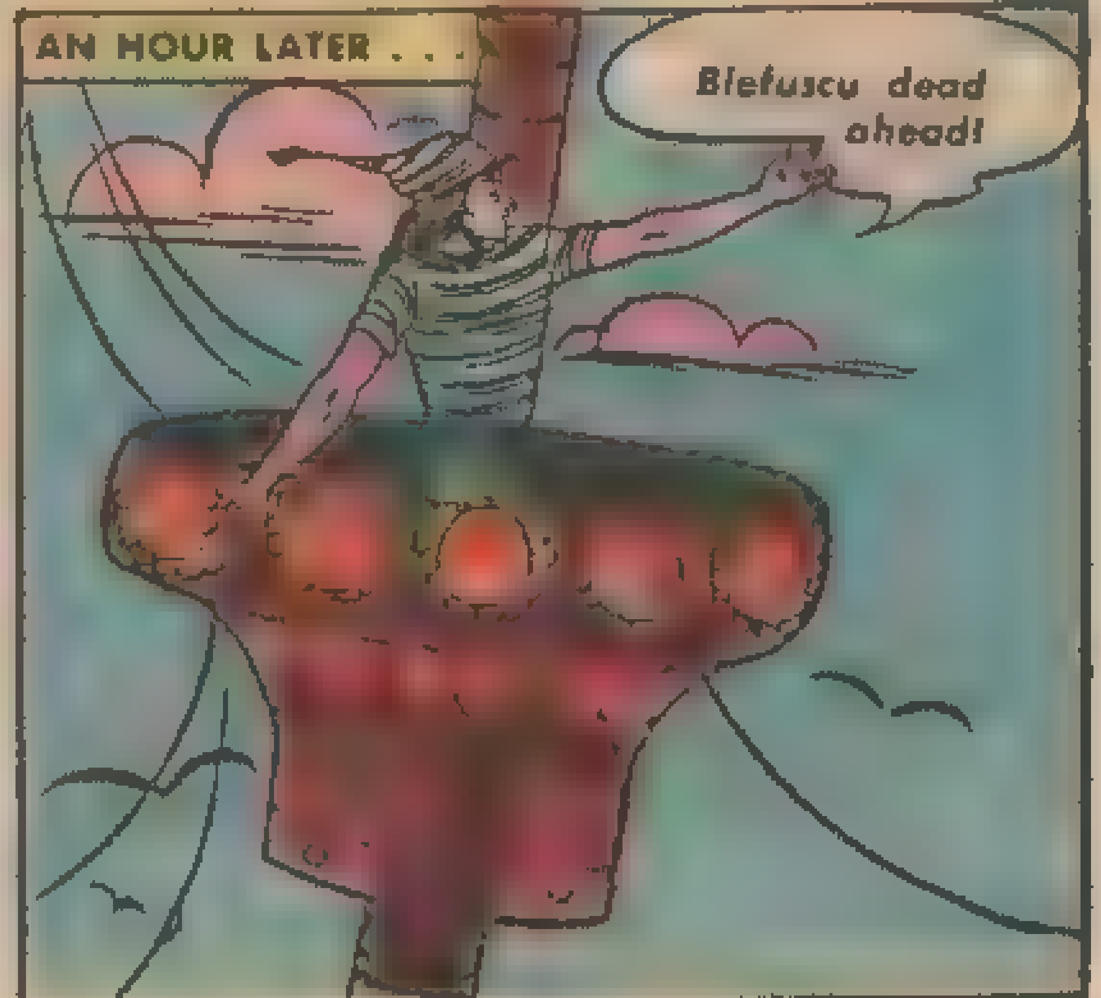

Your majesty, we are now ready for anything the Lilliputians can send against us.

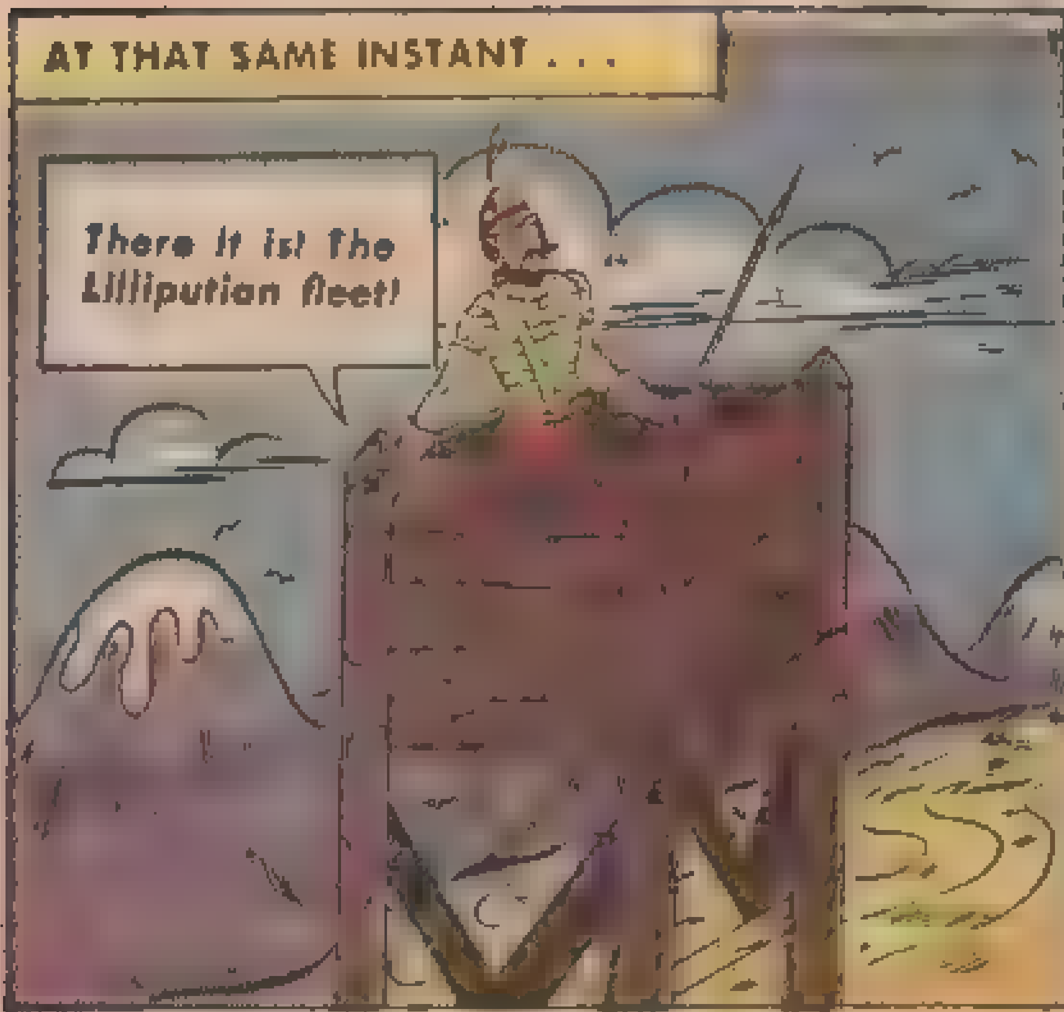

WHILE ACROSS THE CHANNEL SEPARATING THE TWO COUNTRIES, FEVERISH PREPARATIONS ARE ALSO BEING MADE . . .

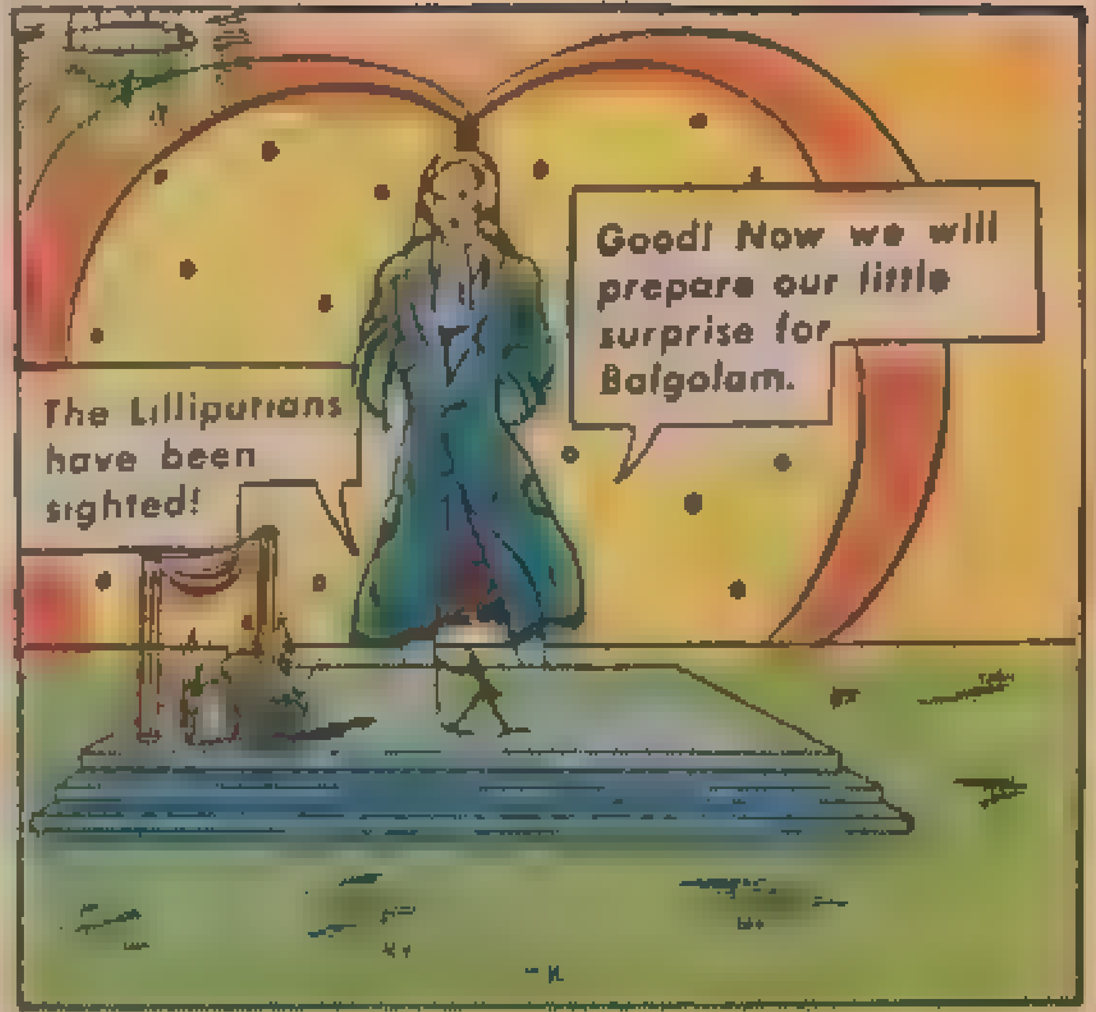

BOLGOLAM IS ANXIOUS TO BEGIN HIS AGGRESSION.
All the troops have been taken aboard, sir!
Good! Give the order to get under way.


IN THE EARLY LIGHT OF DAWN, THE HUGE ARMADA MOVES OUT INTO OPEN WATER.


We will drop anchor just outside the range of their arrows. Then we will lower our landing boats and storm the shore.
Yes, sir. Everything is prepared.


AN HOUR LATER . . .
Blefuscu dead ahead!

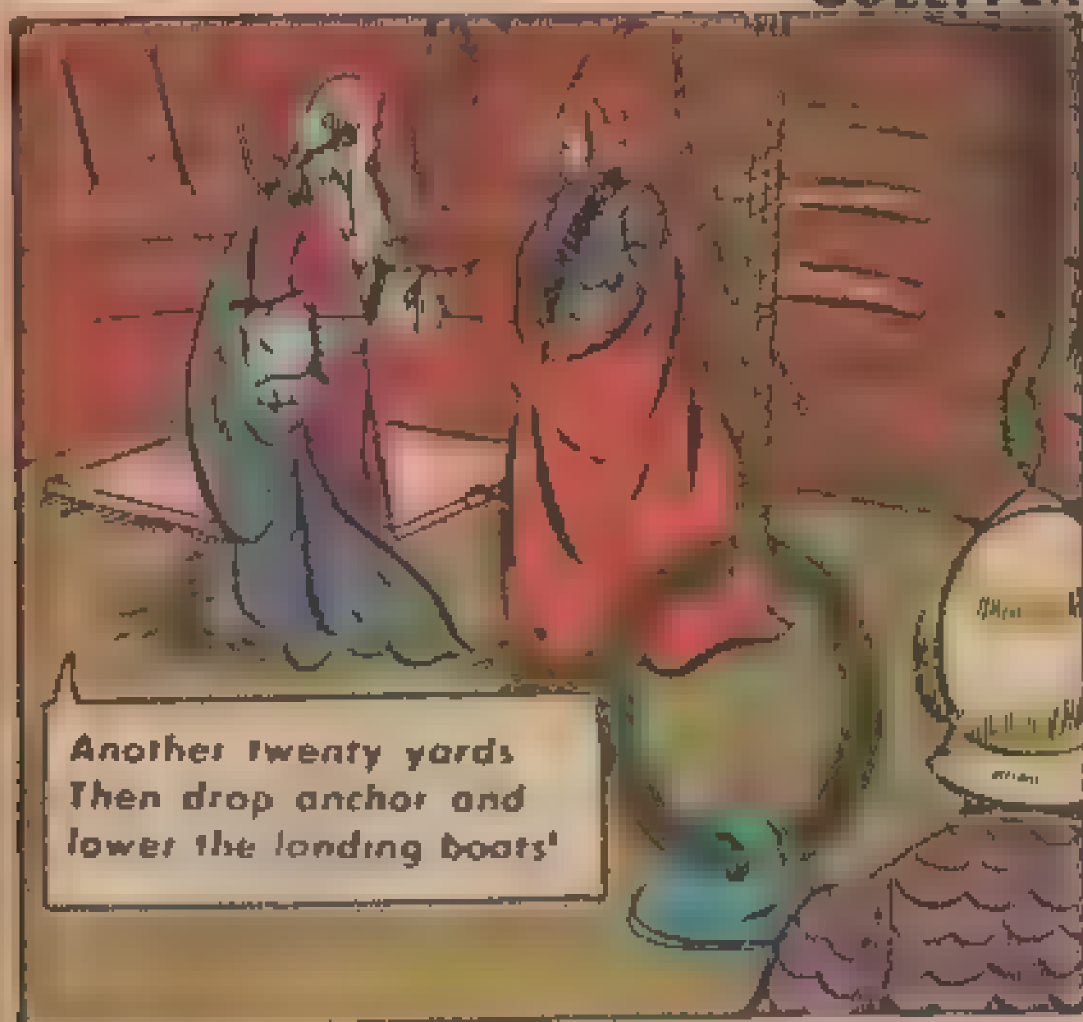

AT THAT SAME INSTANT . . .
There it is! The Lilliputian fleet!


The Lilliputians have been sighted!
Good! Now we will prepare our little surprise for Balgolam.


Get your troops into position!

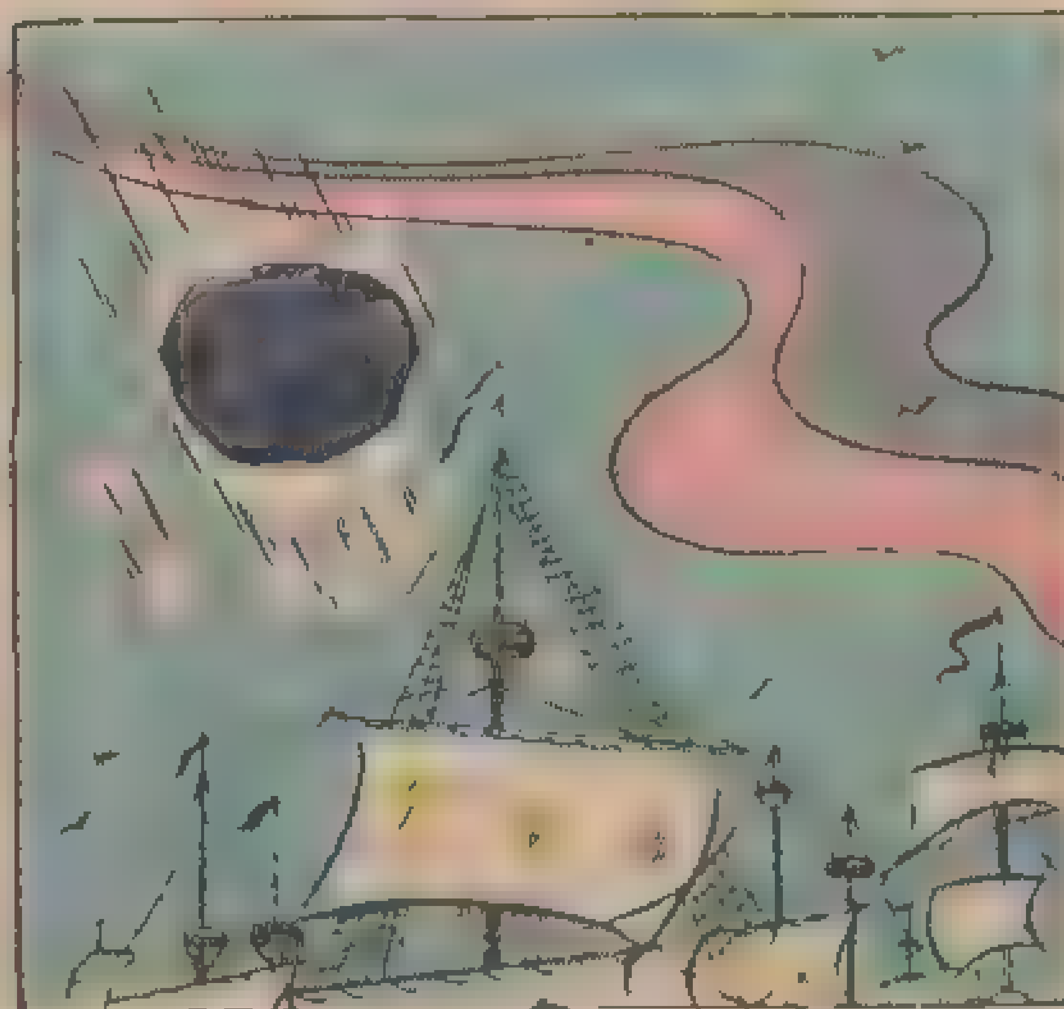

When they see our army drawn up here, they will think that is all the defense we have. They will never guess what awaits them behind the hills

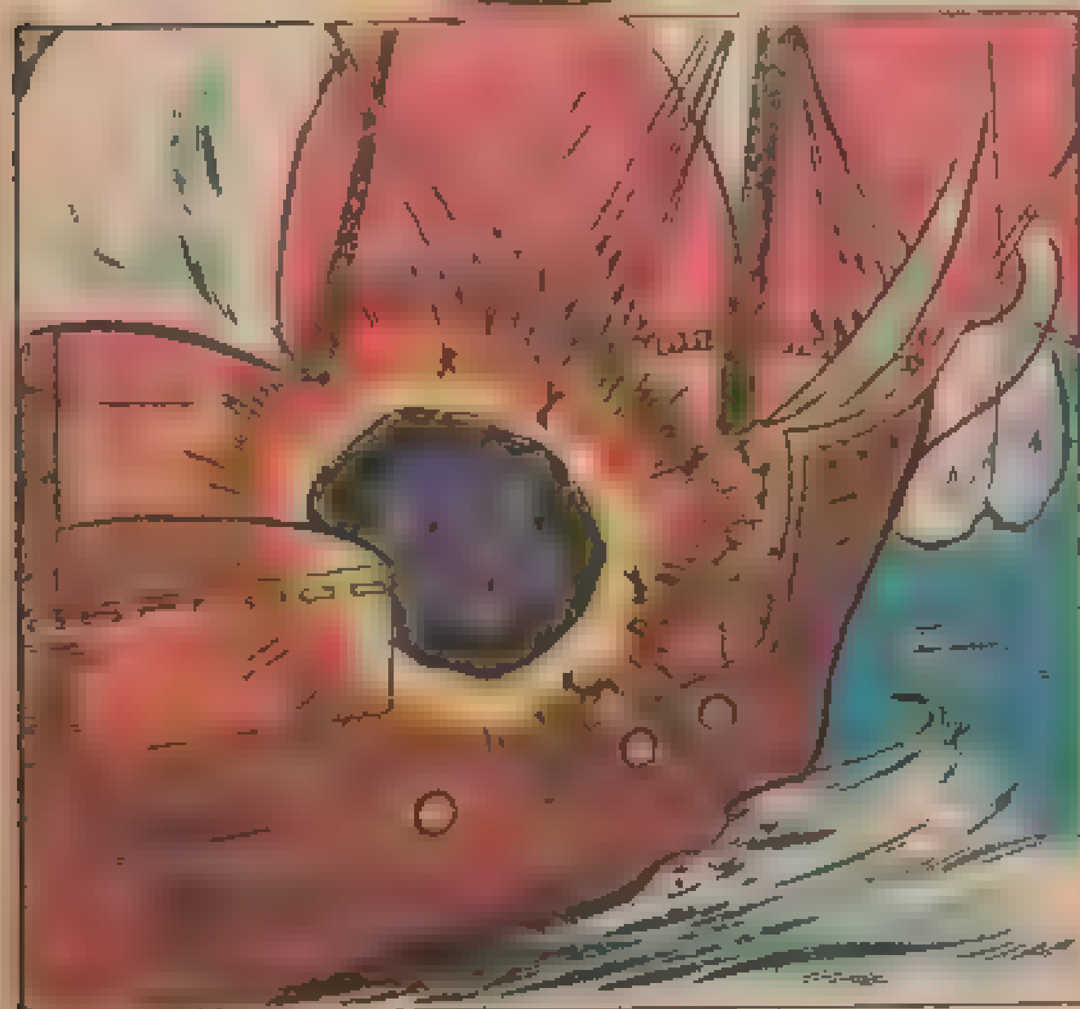

They are coming closer, men. . . Get ready for action!

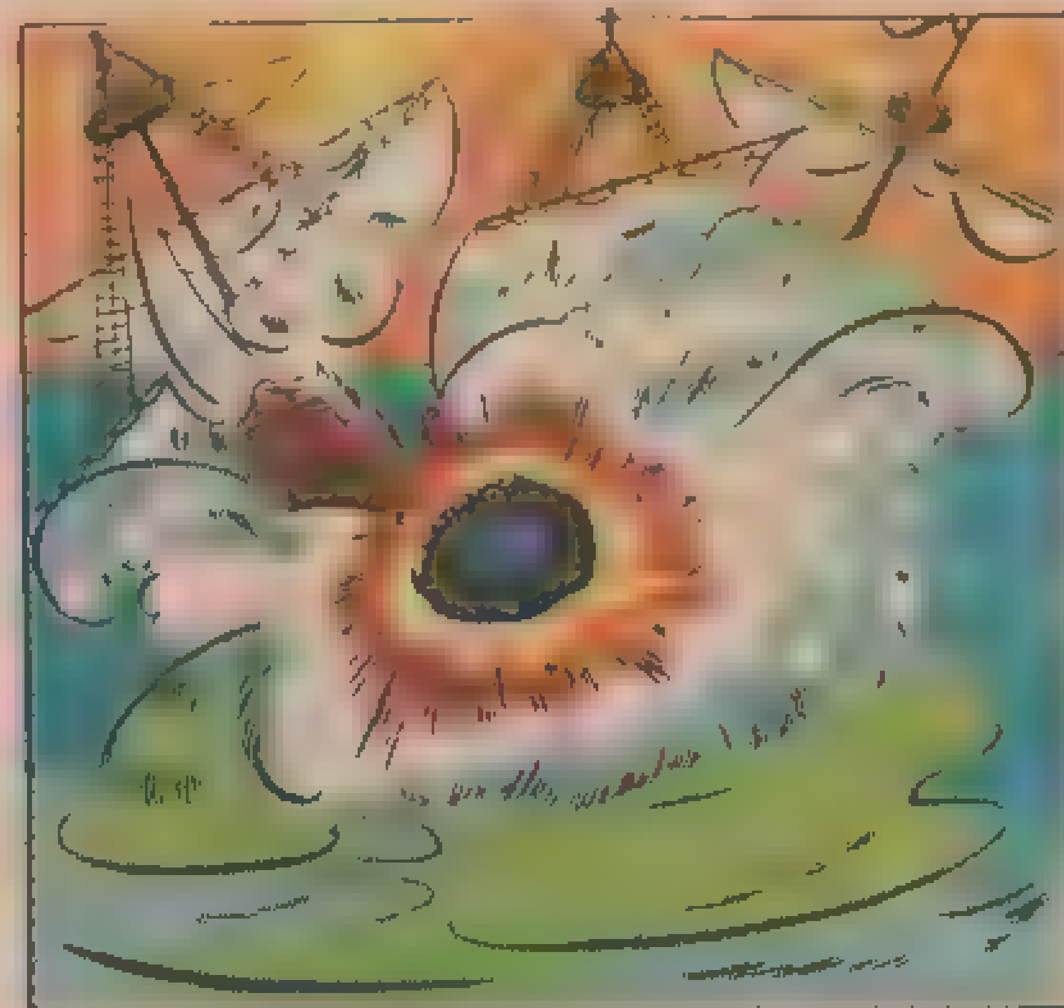

Another twenty yards
Then drop anchor and
lower the landing boats'


BUT BEFORE THOSE TWENTY YARDS HAVE BEEN COVERED







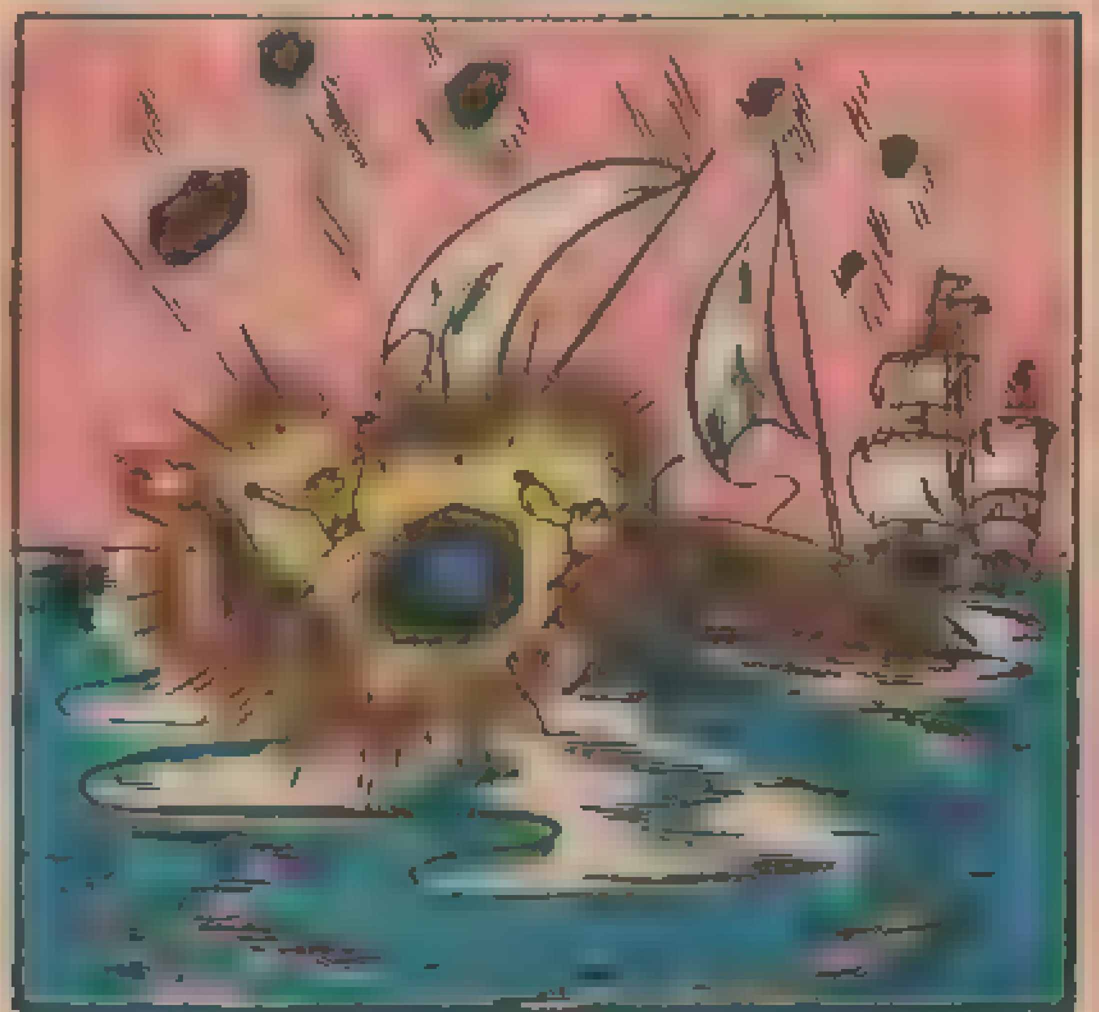



TO THE BEWILDERED, HELPLESS LILLIPUTIANS, THE DEADLY RAIN OF MISSILES SEEMS TO COME FROM HEAVEN ITSELF


THE FIRING CONTINUES WITHOUT LETUP
Good work, men! They are going down like ducks!


DESPITE THE TERRIFIC BOMBARDMENT, SOME SHIPS SUCCEED IN LOWERING LANDING BOATS.

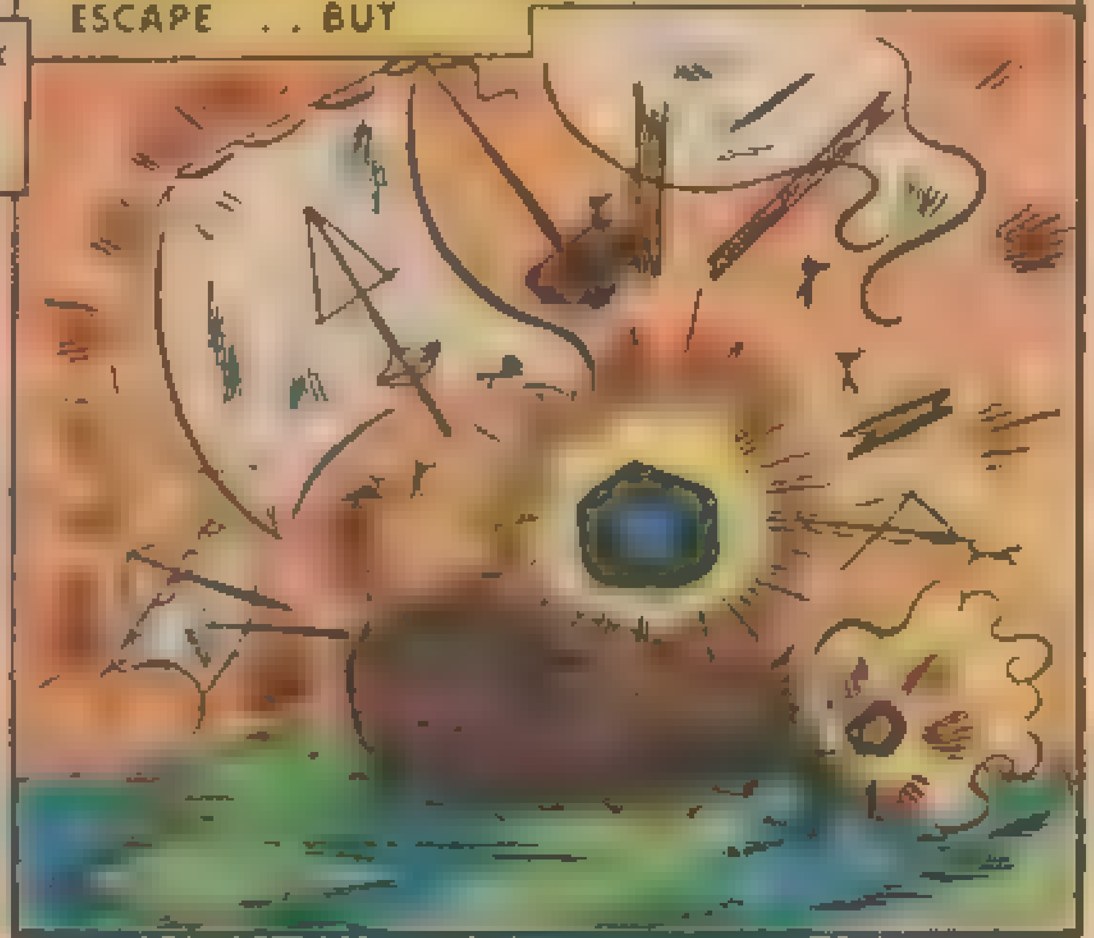

Shorten your aim! Get those landing boats!

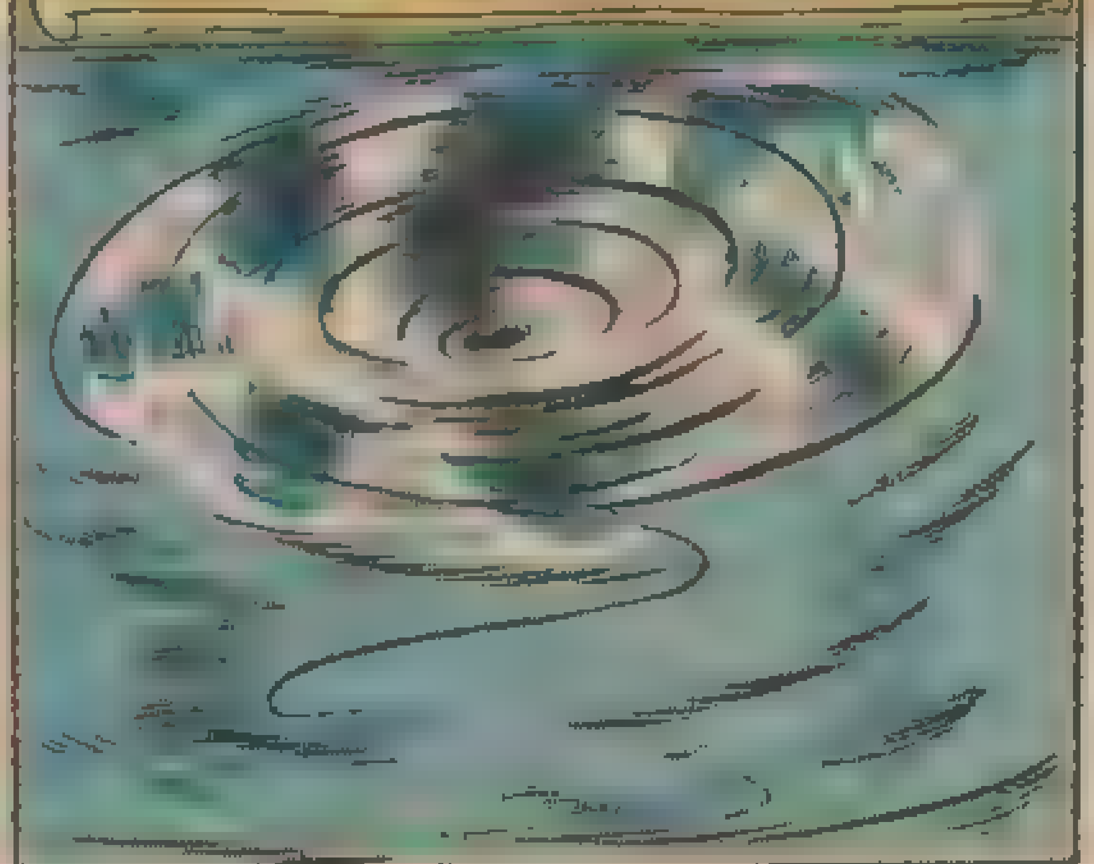


ON ONE OF THE SHIPS THAT HAS NOT YET BEEN HIT

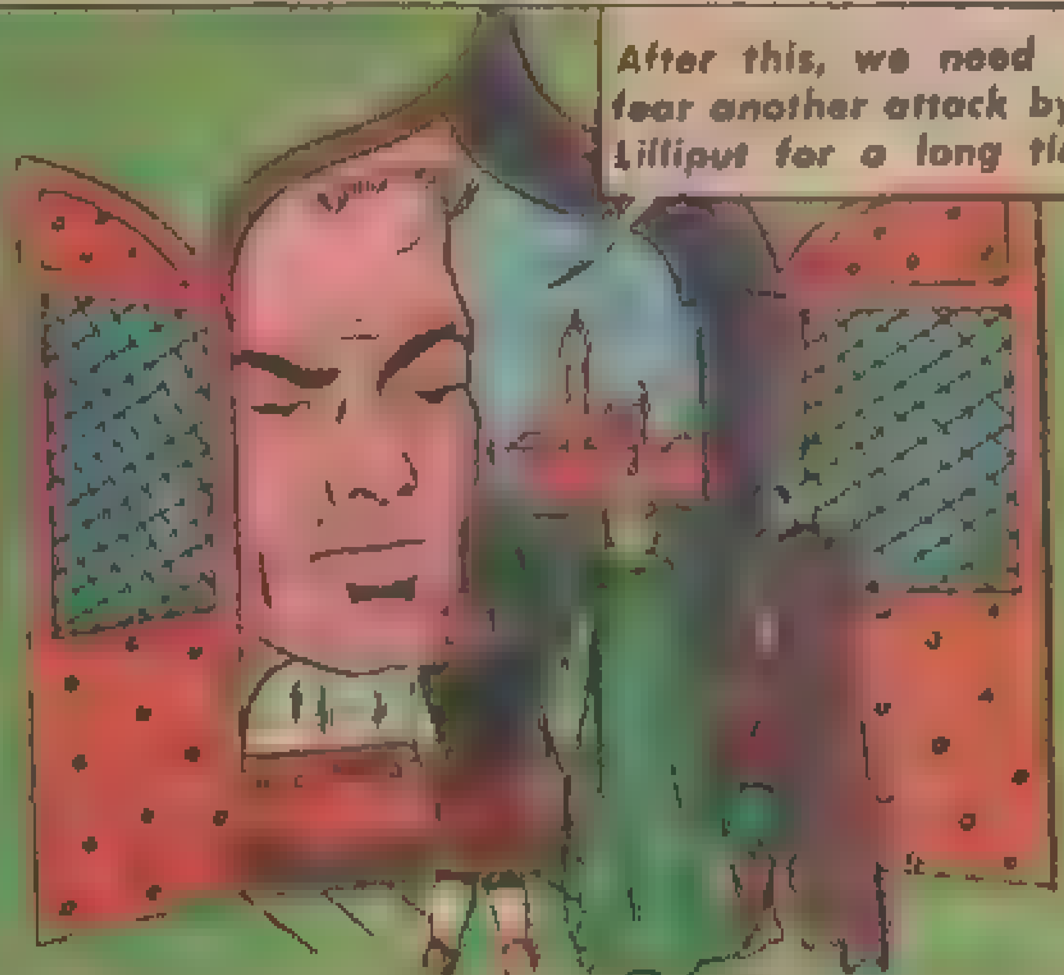
This is that devil of a giant's work!

Let's turn back before we're smashed too!





LEADERLESS AND HOPELESSLY BATTERED, THE REMNANTS OF THE ONCE PROUD ARMADA STRUGGLES BACK TO LILLIPUT. NOT A MAN HAS REACHED BLEFUSCU'S SHORE . THANKS TO GULLIVER'S "SECRET WEAPON."



SEVERAL DAYS LATER . . .

A peace mission has just come from Lilliput. They report the people there have risen against their emperor, overthrown him and installed his son in his place!

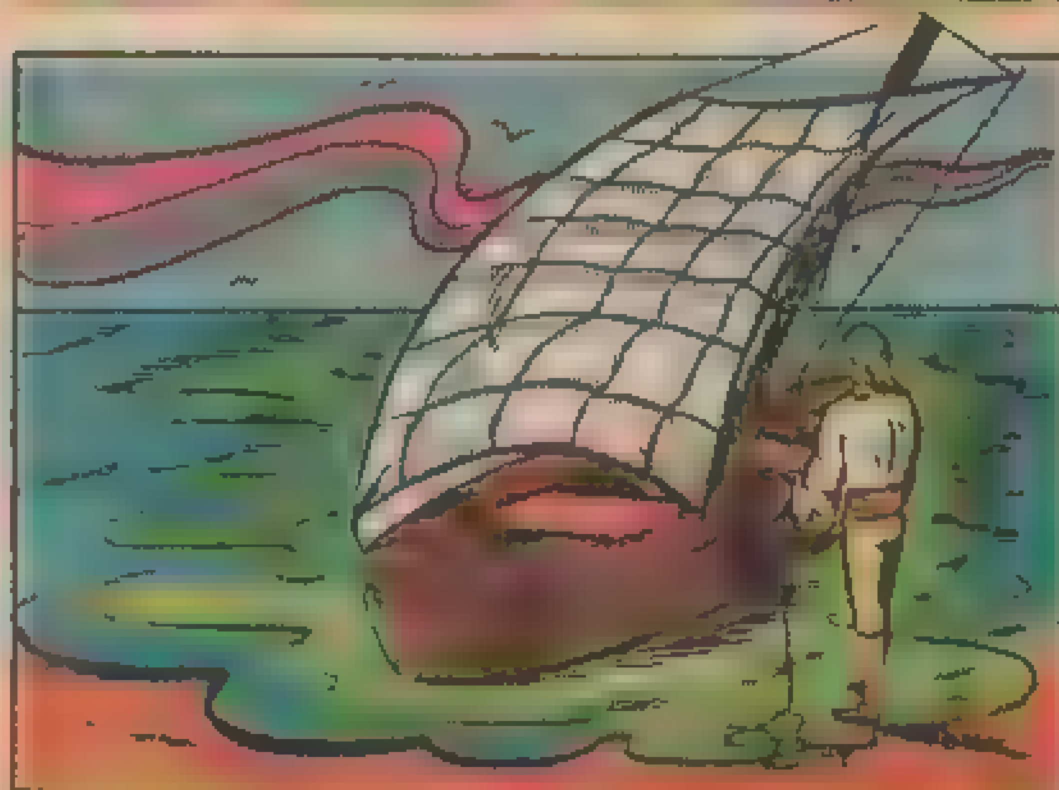
Fine! Perhaps now we can arrange a lasting peace.

LILLIPUT'S NEW RULER COMES TO BLEFUSCU

We have a proposal for you, Gulliver . . . that you rule as monarch of both our lands combined. We will serve under you as deputy rulers.

Thank you, your majesties. But I feel it is time I returned to my own people . . . to my native land.

THE LITTLE PEOPLE ARE SORRY TO SEE GULLIVER GO . . . BUT THEY UNDERSTAND HIS LONGING FOR HOME, AND HELP HIM BUILD A SMALL BOAT

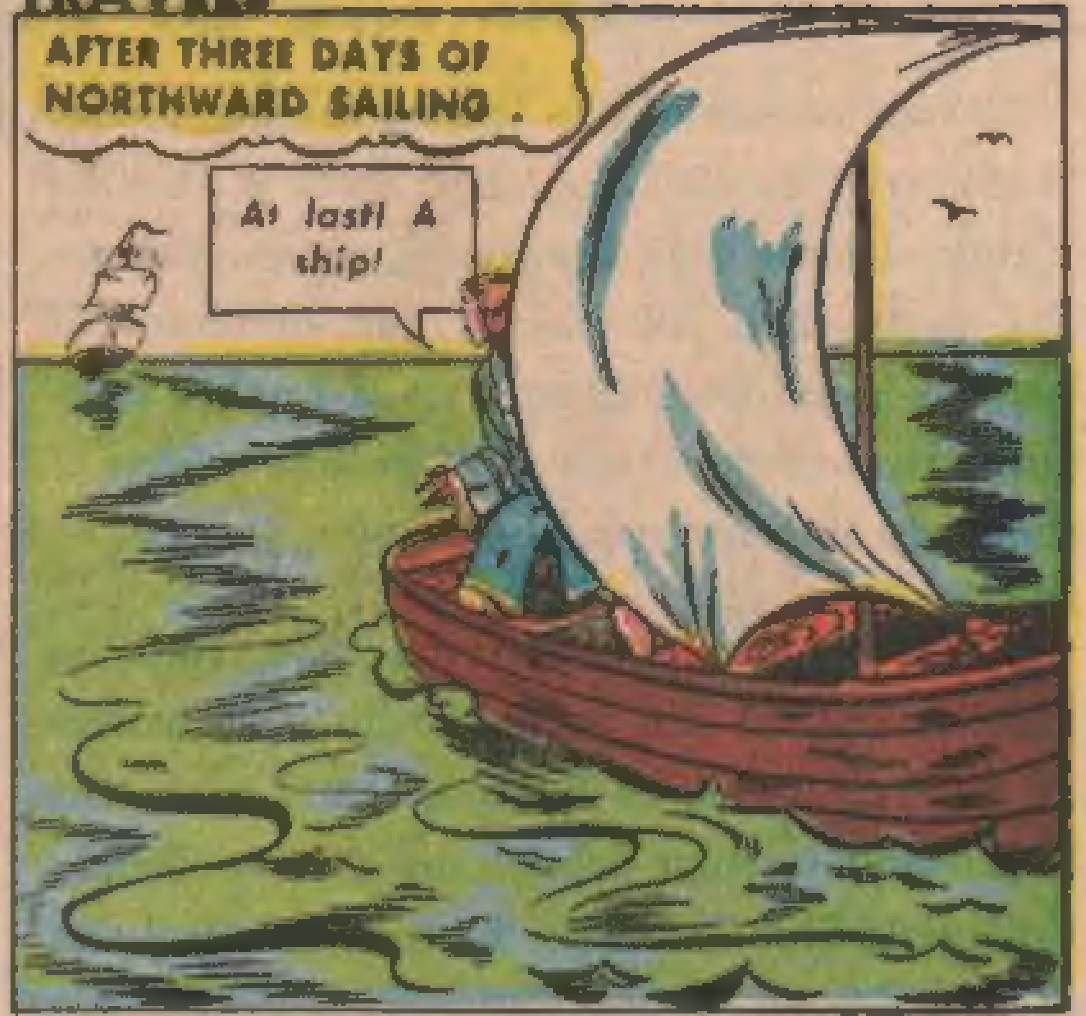


HUNDREDS OF TINY SHEETS ARE SEWN TOGETHER . . THICKNESSES ARE QUILTED TOGETHER . . AND GULLIVER HAS A SAIL FOR HIS BOAT

Take these as reminders of the friendship which our people will always bear for you

THOUSANDS OF GULLIVER'S LITTLE FRIENDS GATHER TO SEE HIM OFF.


THEIR GOOD WISHES RINGING IN HIS EAR GULLIVER LEAVES THESE STRANGE PEOPLE AND THE STRANGE ADVENTURES HE MET AMONG THEM.


AFTER THREE DAYS OF NORTHWARD SAILING .
At last! A ship!


How do you come to be drifting out here?
That's a long story which you will probably not believe. But I shall tell it anyway


THE CAPTAIN DID NOT BELIEVE GULLIVER'S STORY UNTIL HE PRODUCED FROM HIS POCKET THE TINY LILLIPUTIAN ANIMALS.
Well! I'll be hornswoggled!


There she is! Good old Brittania!
I certainly am happy to be back but it will take me weeks to get used to moving among people my own size!
THE END

THE LIFE OF JONATHAN SWIFT

Although most widely known for his classic, "Gulliver's Travels", Jonathan Swift is also the author of more than 230 stories, essays, pamphlets, more than 300 poems, and hundreds of letters which have become part of English literature. He was one of the most prolific writers of the early 18th century.

Swift was born on November 30, 1667, in Dublin, Ireland. His parents, who were natives of England living in Ireland, sent him to the Kilkenny Grammar School and then to Trinity College in Dublin, where he took his Bachelór of Arts degree.

Upon his graduation from Trinity College, he was appointed private secretary to one of England's outstanding statesmen of the day, Sir William Temple, to whom he was distantly related. It was during these years that he met Esther Johnson, the woman who, as "Stella", was destined to play an important role in his life and in his writings. Some biographers believe he was secretly married to her.



In 1659, Swift was ordained Doctor of Divinity in the Church of England. In 1699, leaving the employ of Sir William Temple, he took the post of secretary of chaplain to the Lord Deputy Berkeley in Ireland. The remainder of his life was devoted to active and frequently violent participation in the religious and political issues then confronting England and Ireland. In 1701, he went to England, where he plunged into the feud raging between the Whig and Tory parties. At first he followed the policies of the Whigs, but in 1710 he switched over to the Tories and soon became a member of the unofficial cabinet of advisers surrounding Queen Anne.

He had started his writing in 1704, with the publication of two prose works, "The Battle of the Books" and "Tale of a Tub". From then on, his output was tremendous, consisting principally of pamphlets, tracts and essays on religious and political subjects.

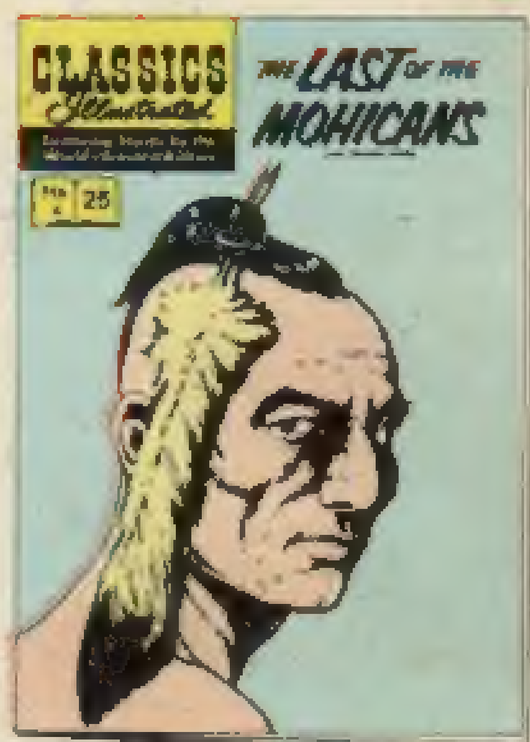
He continued to write profusely until 1736. Poems, letters, and prose works of all kinds flowed from his pen in a torrent. He probably wrote more than did any other writer of the time. Most of his work was satiric in nature, much of it bitterly so. Realizing the evils that clouded many aspects of the civilization in which he lived, he sought by sharp, biting sarcasm, by invective, by irony, to drive people to action against these evils.

"Gulliver's Travels" (or, as it is more correctly known, "Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World By Lemuel Gulliver") written in 1726 has become one of the world's most popular works of literature.

"Gulliver's Travels" was written by Swift as a savage commentary on the European world Swift knew, as a condemnation of the laws and customs of his own and other countries that led one of the characters in the story to describe the inhabitants of Europe as "the most pernicious race of little odious vermin that nature ever suffered to crawl upon the surface of the earth."

In later years, Swift's satire became more and more violently bitter, possibly the result of a mental disease which, by 1736, caused him to become insane. He never recovered and died on October 19, 1745.

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